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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.—

THE LORDS AND GENTLEMEN OF THE "DEADLOCK."

It was scarcely to have been anticipated last week that of the three courses left open to her Majesty in the formation of a Government the second could ever be tried. Between Lord Derby, comparatively strong in Parliament, but weak in the country, and Lord Palmerston, strong in Parliament, and supported by the almost unanimous voice of the people, stood Lord John Russell, the self-damaged head of a moribund party, without moral support either in or out of Parliament, or among the former adherents of his policy and participators in his ambition. Yet on the failure of Lord Derby, and with the result, though not with the object, of making the triumph of Lord Palmerston more complete, Lord John Russell, the author of the crisis, and he who expected to galvanise dead Whiggery into life by it, was allowed to try his hand at the formation of a Ministry. The result was an ignominious failure, such as was universally predicted, if by any turn of the wheel it was sought to form a purely Whig Ministry under such auspices. Notwithstanding the urgency of public affairs, the several parties, or tails of parties, which still exist, and all impartial politicians in the country, were satisfied and delighted at the failure; for Lord John Russell's success would have entailed disgrace, if not calamity. Lord Palmerston, the man who commands the confidence of the nation—whose name is synonymous all over Europe with the power, the dominion, and the glory of England, and which has been heard and feared in the wilds of Asia and of Africa, where the name of no other European statesman has ever penetrated—whose advent to power rings ominously in the ears of the enemies of liberty and progress in every State, barbarian or semi-barbarian, in Europe—stepped into the position, which was his from the first, and undertook the construction of a Government. On Wednesday the names of the Administration

then formed were announced; and will be found in another portion of our journal.

Lord Palmerston will have a difficult task to carry on his Government with the vigour and efficiency demanded of him. The opposition arrayed against him will be of that formidable kind which springs from hostile or envious parties in the Legislature, and of that still more formidable kind which springs from the secret sympathies of many intangible and invisible friends of Russia and the Russian system. In addition to all these sources of difficulty, if not of peril, it must be remembered that he steps into power at a period when the very marrow of our institutions seems to have been dried up, and to have left nothing behind it but a residuum of Parliamentary incongruities and effete pretensions. His Lordship has a great work to do, and a magnificent opportunity, not simply of serving but of saving his country, and of entitling his name to the gratitude of the present and all future generations. But the people must enable him to be bold as well as wise. If he grasp, as we have no doubt he does, the full magnitude and significance of his task, he must be aided by the people to inaugurate a social change which will involve infinitely more than the safety of our army in the Crimea, essential as that is. It has become his duty and privilege to prove to the world that popular freedom is even more necessary in war than in peace; and that the forces of a constitutional Government can be more wisely and effectively directed than those of a despotism. In addition to this it is his business to conquer the Czar, and restore peace to Europe, by the coercion and punishment of him who broke it.

The question of questions which Lord Palmerston and the country have to decide resolves itself into this—can a reformed Parliament act in war as vigorously as in peace? The question, if not entirely new to modern civilisation, is new to this country. The early heroes of the French Revolution solved a similar question with

triumphant success. Hitherto, since the occupation of the Crimea by the Allied armies, such experience as we have had has been rather Governmental than Parliamentary; but our Parliamentary system has shared in the opprobrium of the failure. The liberties of the country have been endangered. The factions who have looked, and still look, upon the right to govern as an inheritance of which they cannot be rightfully or safely deprived seek to throw the blame and the disgrace from their own shoulders to those of the people, and loudly assert that with a free press, with the right of discussion in public meetings, and with a popularly-elected Parliament, it is impossible to carry on so gigantic a war. Let the people look to it in time. Let them not trust even to Lord Palmerston to see them safely through the impending crisis. The Lords and Gentlemen of the "Deadlock" have not lost the power of obstruction. The national fortunes are menaced. There are dangers ahead which the people alone can avert. The present Parliament is too evenly balanced to be depended upon, unless there come a pressure from without to strengthen the hands of an honest and courageous Minister. A dissolution of Parliament would be an evil; but there are evils fifty thousand-fold worse in prospective, if the nation does not demand and compel an efficient and successful prosecution of the business in hand. The business is War—war to the last extremity—war to its legitimate issues, whatever they may be. A series of splendid, if not unparalleled, victories proves that our soldiers can fight; and the enthusiasm of the public shows that, while our soldiers do their duty, the people are ready to do theirs. With men and money, and a good cause, it is impossible that this country can fail, unless from the incapacity or treachery of its rulers. This is the consummation to avert which Lord Palmerston requires support more earnest, continuous, and powerful than ever before was given to a Minister in this country. Without such sup-



H.M.S. "ROYAL ALBERT," IN A SNOW-STORM, BLOCKADING SEBASTOPOL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

port he cannot equal public expectation, or, if he be the man we believe, satisfy his own conscience. Without the people at his back he cannot revolutionise the aristocratic system of the army; he cannot, like Carnot, "organise victory;" he cannot remove the incapable from high places, whomsoever and wheresoever they may be; he cannot wield the mighty physical as well as moral forces of the empire, and maintain us in our proud position in the very front of civilisation, but must fail with the best of intentions and the best of causes.

"The state of the nation" in the bygone days when we were at peace used to be a favourite topic on the platform and in Parliament. There was not a bread riot in a remote district that did not call up some Boanerges of the Tribune, to inquire into the condition of the people, and demand a remedy for countless grievances. A mill shut up, a strike of workmen, the riotous demolition of a toll-bar, the imposition of a new tax, a monster meeting of Celts to inveigh against the misgovernment of the Saxon, the cruelty of a Poor-law official, or the attempt of some exclusive and sour religious sect to prevent all education among the children of the people, lest education should be provided on too broad a basis to be consistent with sectarianism;—all these and a thousand other questions stirred the energies of the people, and brought the weight of opinion to bear on the opposition or the inertia of the Legislature and the Government. And is this wholesome state of supervision to be annulled by the first blast of the war-trumpet? Is the public energy as defunct as Whiggism, Toryism, or Cobdenism? Or has the national character been so deteriorated by money-grubbing and commercial gambling that men are calmly to resign themselves to national disgrace, without an effort to wipe it off? The memories of Alma and of Inkerman belie the supposition. The popular approval of a war undertaken in pure defence of right and justice contradicts and disproves it. Then why do the people not move? Are they so bewildered at the unexpected result that they stand open-mouthed and gape at the calamity? Perhaps so. But in this case the moment of their awakening is at hand, and new leaders will be found, in default of the old ones, to organise their opinions, and arouse the country from end to end in support of a truly national and vigorous policy.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP "ROYAL ALBERT" BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

We have been favoured with the Sketch engraved upon the preceding page by an officer of the British fleet at the Crimea. It portrays the magnificent ship *Royal Albert* in a snow-storm, while blockading Sebastopol. This is a fearful picture of the severity of a Crimean winter, however the accounts of the climatology of the country may differ.

The snow-storms by land have been destructively severe. A medical officer writing from the Camp before Sebastopol on Jan. 16 describes "the snow lying two or three feet on the ground, and a bitter north wind blowing that will send many a fine fellow to his last home. Anything to equal our discomfort and wretchedness no language can describe. * * * The cold was so intense in my tent that I could not sleep, or rather was afraid to go to sleep, for fear I should never wake again. One of these nights it snowed heavily; and an unfortunate officer lost his way in the snow in returning to camp from Balaklava, and perished miserably from cold: his body was found by the French next morning. Two men perished in the snow, and the sick are dying fast."

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.
(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

The decision respecting the fêtes at the Tuilleries has been taken, and a certain number are to be given before the conclusion of the season. Of these the first takes place to-day (Thursday), the second on the 15th; these, of course, will be all that can be given until after Lent, unless, indeed, the relaxation of the *mi-carême* may allow of another. Paris has rarely been gayer, in the way of Ministerial and official fêtes, than it is at this moment. The Minister of State, the Prince Murat, M. de Cambaceres, the Turkish Ambassador, the *Préfet de la Seine*, &c., vie with each other in the splendour of their receptions. Those at the British Legation, held on four successive Saturdays, were most numerously and brilliantly attended by both French and English, besides the various members of the *corps diplomatique*, and other foreigners of distinction.

A story, which excites a good deal of curiosity, is going the rounds here, the truth of which we do not pretend to affirm. It is related that at a fancy *fête intime* given by one of the principal members of the Imperial household a number of masks and dominoes made their appearance together; that among them were recognised two peculiarly distinguished personages, who mingled with the crowd, entered fully into the spirit that the privileges of the incognito afforded to such fêtes, and retired highly amused with the adventure.

The Prince Napoleon's appearance, altered so very materially by his illness, attests its severity: there was a question of his proceeding to the Iles d'Hyères for the recovery of his health, but his wish to return to Paris overruled the advice of his medical attendants. Since his arrival he has had a slight return of the malady which so painfully affected him in the late campaign, but it is hoped when he has recovered from the fatigues of the journey, and that his strength becomes re-established, he will be no longer subject to its recurrence. The Prince has been to visit his sister the Princess Mathilde, and a complete reconciliation of the differences which so long divided the members of this branch of the Imperial family has taken place. It is said that the Prince Pierre Bonaparte is likely to have a command entrusted to him in the Foreign Legion.

Great esteem and sympathy has been expressed here for the Duke of Cambridge; though, as he remained nearly *incognito* during his visit, no opportunity occurred of openly demonstrating the feeling.

The arrival of a magnificent map of the Crimea from London, executed by Major Jervis, from the original Russian chart, with the dedication, "Hommage à l'Armée Française," has been extremely well received here and has entirely fulfilled the intention of gratifying the allies to whose bravery, cordiality, and good-fellowship our troops in the East owe such a debt of goodwill and gratitude.

The intense cold of last week has, we trust, finally given way, and is succeeded by very mild weather, and in consequence a thaw so complete that the ice and snow which abounded in and about Paris, and indeed all over the country, have disappeared with marvellous rapidity, but with the effect, as may be supposed, of nearly flooding town and country. The streets in many parts of Paris are nearly ankle-deep in mud and water, and in some places the gutters have to be traversed with planks, to enable foot-passengers to cross them, despite the constant operations of some hundreds of extra scavengers employed to clear away the snow and ice before they melted.

The new opera at the Italiens, "Gli Arabi nelle Gallia" (the music *Scaini*, the libretto drawn from the work of the Vicomte d'Arlincourt), is well received, though the story is much criticised. It is said that the admiration of the Emperor for a duo in the work (which he had heard years ago at Rome, and which he often hummed) gave the idea of bringing out the opera here. The Emperor and Empress were present at the first representation. At the Gaîté, "La Masque de Poix;" at the Gymnase, "Centenaire Dreyfus;" at the Porte St. Martin, "Jane Osborn," are the most attractive novelties.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

By the steam-packet *Ganges*, which sailed from Constantinople on the 29th, we have news from the Crimea to the 25th ult., at which date the weather was described as much improved. Every night there was a hard frost, followed next day by a bright sun. This is the description given by a French soldier, who was probably looking only at the bright side of the picture. The letters from the English Camp are chiefly filled with the old complaints of endless disorder, waste, want, and mortality. The general impression in the Camp was that no serious operation can take place for a few weeks. Nothing has transpired as to what the next step will be. The prevailing notion is that the Allies will give battle to the enemy, and, having beaten them, return and take up position on the Belbek, so as to complete the investment of Sebastopol on the north as they do now on the south side. Thus hemmed in on all points, it is the opinion of military men that the city would be utterly unable to hold out for any length of time. This plan is approved of by many professional persons. It would have the advantage of enabling the Allies to make use of their most powerful instrument, the French and English infantry, while with the system of assault the enemy is confessedly more than a match, his artillery being of so much greater calibre.

The letters received from the Crimea by the *Ganges* are dated the 24th of January. They give an unfavourable account of the sanitary condition of the Allied armies. The French were still under tents, except the sick, who have wooden houses. They have suffered much from the inclemency of the season. The officers best qualified to give an opinion on the subject, express fears that the siege will be still protracted, and that an assault is not practicable without a tremendous sacrifice of life. General Canrobert had ordered all the correspondents of the French press to quit the Crimea, even one who had brought a letter of introduction from a Minister holding a high position in the councils of the Emperor Louis Napoleon. He had likewise published an order of the day, commanding the officers who should write to their friends to desire them not to give their letters for publication. The following extract from a private letter, written by a French officer, draws a gloomy picture of the British camp:—

The English army is no longer an army. It only bears the name. Of the 56,000 men which the British Government sent to the East there remains at this moment not more than 10,000 to 11,000, and even those are not all able to carry arms. I must add that there are, moreover, about 10,000 in the hospitals of Constantinople, and 1000 in the ambulances at Balaklava—the remainder are gone to their long home. A sad result of the two principal vices in the English army—the officers, with few exceptions, have forgotten how to conduct a campaign, and the administration for the supply of provisions is absolutely null. Several transports had been laden at Venice and Trieste with planks for constructing wooden huts for the troops. When they arrived at Balaklava the English had no horses to carry them to the camp. The timber lay in the mud until the snow fell, when the soldiers burned it to warm themselves. The following is the result of the neglected state of the English army. The French have nearly completed their siege works; their trenches have been carried to within a few yards of the walls of the town. The English, on the contrary, are far behind; and a few days since their General informed General Canrobert that his effective force was not sufficient to continue their works. Some days previously the French had been compelled to occupy the batteries erected by the English at their extreme right, which command the mouth of the Tchernaya and the high road to Simferopol, which they were no longer able to defend. General Canrobert has given orders to the Third Division to continue the English trenches.

Another letter of the 24th ult. says:—

The Russians make frequent sorties, which are always repulsed, and cost them a number of men. An aide-de-camp of the Emperor Nicholas was killed during a sortie made on the 23rd. That sortie revealed a curious fact. The Russians have become hunters of men. They ensnare their victims with the lasso. On that occasion they captured a French officer, whom they carried off from among his men.

The following particulars of a sortie, made on the night of the 12th ult., are communicated by a French officer holding a high position on the Staff:—

The Russians paid us the compliments of the season after their fashion on the night of the 12th, which corresponds with their New-Year's-day. Although their cannonade, from its violence, reminded me of the end of the world, it providentially neither killed nor wounded one of our men. The Russian soldiers, however, were assured by their priests that they should find us all dead in the trenches. They had the folly, consequently, to rush on our lines to the number of 300 or 400 men, where they were received to their great astonishment with a fire of musketry and thrown back on the English lines. Our overworked and over-fatigued allies were unfortunately surprised, and with great difficulty repulsed the Russians, but not without a loss of several men.

A telegraphic despatch from Vienna, on Thursday, states that the Grand Duke Michael is lying ill of ague at Cherson, that the Grand Duke Nicholas is at Sebastopol, and that the Russian army is in want of supplies. If the *Times* could persuade Nicholas to allow one of its own correspondents to take up his quarters in Sebastopol and the Russian camp for a week or two he would, no doubt, be able to give us a picture of the sufferings of the Russian army which would match the worst accounts from Balaklava, so far as disease and mortality are concerned. The following passage from a French letter shows that the besieged are heartily tired of the affair. After giving an account of the sortie on the 14th ult., he says:—

The next morning a flag of truce presented himself with a letter from General Osten-Sacken to General Forey, in which he expressed his deepest regret for the death of "a most distinguished officer," and requested the Commander of the besieging corps to give up his body to him. Gen. Forey immediately acquiesced in his desire, and by the same opportunity delivered to the Russians the bodies of twenty-six of their comrades who had not yet been interred. This delivery took place within the buildings of the Quarantine, in the presence of an officer of an eccentric character, who spoke French very fluently, and said to us, "This is a shocking work we are engaged in! What hinders you from taking the town? All this cannot amuse you. For our part, we are heartily tired of it." What did he mean by putting us such questions? I cannot tell; I merely repeat his expressions verbatim.

Letters from Eupatoria state that on the 23rd ult. Omer Pacha had landed there with 30,000 or 40,000 Turks. This army is to occupy the road to Simferopol preparatory to the investment of Sebastopol. Every day parties were sent out to reconnoitre the position of Prince Menschikoff's army, but they generally returned without having met the enemy. The latter, however, must show themselves in order to relieve Sebastopol, when a serious conflict may be anticipated.

PRUSSIA AND THE WESTERN POWERS.

Two diplomatic circulars from M. Drouyn de Lhuys on the Prussian position within a week show that the crisis, so far as Frederick William is concerned, rapidly approaches a termination. The French Minister is clear and decisive in his language. In the first despatch he points out the absurdity of the statements made by Prussia regarding the pacific disposition of the Czar:—

Is it not true that a considerable Russian army is ready to enter on a campaign in Transylvania? Is it not true that a mere incident menaces to place the Austrians and Russians at variance on the banks of the Pruth or of the Lower Danube? Is it not true that the intercourse between the Cabinets of Vienna and of St. Petersburg is of the most delicate nature? Can it be said, in fact, that the opinion of the prompt re-establishment of peace is generally believed in? Is it even certain that the acceptance mentioned by Prince Gortschakoff is such as was at first supposed? To ask these questions is, in fact, to answer them; and, at the same time, to justify all the applications which Austria is sending to her confederates.

As regards the isolation of Prussia he shows that it is her own act.

She cannot demand the privileges of a Great Power without fulfilling the duties of a Great Power. "What is the position of Prussia?" says M. Drouyn de Lhuys. "Has she made a choice between the belligerent parties? Has she entered into an alliance with Russia or with us? Until she has decided for one side or the other she leaves room for every kind of supposition, and closes against herself, by her own conduct, the door of the conferences."

In his second circular the French Minister says:—

The result of the treaty of the 2nd December is that the three Cabinets which have contracted this alliance have pledged themselves, in the hypothesis of the failure of any future negotiations, to make common cause against Russia. That means that first of all they will use the same language, and afterwards pass on to the same acts. The notes of the 8th of August and the treaty of the 2nd of December are the results of these preliminary deliberations, which were prescribed by the protocols of the Conference, and in which, as has been shown, Prussia refused to take part. In order to be present at the negotiations, it would be necessary for her to

place herself on the same line as France, England, and Austria; and that there should not be any uncertainty either as to the intention which she displays in the matter, or as to her ulterior conduct.

The Cabinet of Berlin cannot suppose that, by its language and its attitude in Germany, it gives to the Allies, in that double aspect, all the guarantees which are desirable; and it must not, consequently, be astonished if, until such time as it has responded to the overtures which have been made, and has accepted, with respect to France, the same position as Austria, the Cabinet of Paris should pursue, in accord with its allies, the settlement of an affair which it does not appear to consider in the same light, but in which, if its co-operation be wanting, the fault does not certainly rest with the Allies.

The whole effect of the French Note is to remind Prussia that if she is sincere in desiring to establish the same relation with the Western Powers that Austria has secured for herself, it is even now not too late. After so distinct a warning, it will be impossible for the Government of King Frederick William to say that it has been precluded from joining in the alliance (which promises to embrace all the principal part of Europe concerned in the question, from Holland to Piedmont), by want of an explicit communication of the views, the engagements, and the proceedings of the Three Powers. In the meanwhile, M. Drouyn de Lhuys distinctly states to the Prussian Government, that, although it is not yet too late to join the alliance, the Powers already allied do not, as they have not heretofore, intend to suspend their own proceedings in order to wait for the slower movements of Prussia. Should that Power protract its delays to too late an hour, the responsibility must lie with itself.

Should diplomatic arguments not prove strong enough for the Prussian Royal intellect, there are indications of sharper logic in the background. The *Augsburg Gazette* repeats the announcement that a French army will traverse Austria, in order to operate against Russia. It says:—

We learn that in the best-informed circles at Vienna it is positively affirmed that the military convention with the Western Powers, provided for in Article V. of the treaty of December, is now ready for signature. It contains the stipulation that French troops shall be brought up to the Russo-Polish frontier to occupy that position which Prussia has renounced. The French army will march by way of Milan and Laybach, and be thence conveyed by the southern and northern railroads. The French corps will have arrived at the southern extremity of the Austrian railway system about the beginning of March. General Crenville, it is believed, carries the convention with him to Paris.

AUSTRIAN MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

Judging from the whole accounts received from Austria, a few weeks only separate us from the active co-operation of the armies of that country. Every preparation has been made by the Cabinet of Vienna to ensure success in the coming campaign. The entire forces of the empire, including the reserves, are at present on foot prepared to take the field at a moment's notice. According to the *Augsburger Zeitung*, the military forces of the Austrian empire now on foot amount to 549,000 bayonets, with 686 cannon, exclusive of the reserve, which, in the space of two months, will, including the frontier regiments, exceed 200,000 men. Allowing for a certain exaggeration, this force, divided into four armies, will be intensely powerful, and, as an offensive element, irresistible. Should the rumour be confirmed, which is current in the political salons of Paris, and which we have elsewhere noticed, that a French army, exceeding 100,000 men, will co-operate with the Austrian arms, the war will be speedily decided, and the operations in the Crimea will sink into insignificance compared with the campaign on the Vistula.

A Bucharest writer says, that, in consequence of disorders in that city, two companies of Austrian gendarmerie are to be sent thither to maintain order. The Russians still hold the bridge over the Danube at Ismail.

The following despatch has been received from Bucharest, dated Feb. 3:—

Ismael Pacha arrived at Ibraila on the 31st ult. Soon after his arrival he issued a proclamation, as Commander-in-Chief of the Danubian army, in which it was announced that a great contest would probably take place on the Lower Danube.

Letters from Frankfort say that it is not unlikely that in the course of a month Austria will renew at the Diet her proposition for mobilising the federal contingents. By that time the military preparations ordered by the recent resolution will have been completed, and hopes are entertained that the missions of General Wedell and Herr Von Usedom at Paris and London may possibly have restored the harmony between Prussia and the West, and so have prepared the way for common action between the Courts of Vienna and Berlin. The probability of such an arrangement is not very great. We see that Count Esterhazy, Austrian Ambassador Extraordinary at the Prussian Court, arrived at Vienna on the 2nd from Berlin. The *Vienna Presse* connects the Count's return with the recent rejection of the Austrian proposition at Frankfort, chiefly through Prussian influence, and, from the fact of the Countess accompanying him, thinks the Ambassador will not go back to Vienna.

PACIFIC ARRANGEMENT WITH GREECE.

The latest authentic accounts from Constantinople represent the affairs of Greece as in course of arrangement. It will be remembered that, after the invasion of Thessaly and Macedonia by the Hellenic bands, the Porte demanded an indemnity in two forms—the one was to be a national compensation for the expenses of the war, the other a payment to the inhabitants of the border provinces to make good their losses during the invasion of the Greeks. In the meantime all diplomatic communication was suspended, the Hellenic inhabitants of the Turkish Empire had been expelled, and the commerce of Greece seriously impaired. With the obstinacy of the national character the Greeks refused to pay any indemnity, urging that they had no money. This argument seems to have had its effect on the Western Governments, and the Porte was commanded to desist from its claim. How far any remains of the old Philhellenic feeling may have dictated this leniency it is hard to say, but in all these cases the Greeks generally make a stand, through a confidence that the civilised nations of the West will never be too hard on the supposed descendants of the Athenians and Spartans. They are said to have gained their end, and the question is to be arranged in a manner satisfactory to all parties. There was an old commercial treaty negotiated between Greece and the Porte some time after the establishment of Hellenic independence. This treaty Otho rejected, and it has not since been heard of. Now it has been proposed to recur to it, and to give Turkey some advantage in the trade with Greece as a compensation for her pecuniary losses and the insult offered to her territory. A meeting took place lately on the subject between the special Greek Envoy and the Turkish Commissioners, acting under the advice of the Ministers of the Western Powers. The result is, that the matter is concluded, and the Greek flag will once more be seen in the Bosphorus and Euxine. The Greeks are much the gainers in the whole transaction, for, as the commerce of both countries is in their hands, they are as much benefited by concessions from Greece to Turkey as by concessions from Turkey to Greece.

AMERICA.

The steam-ship *Baltic*, which left New York on the 24th ult., arrived at Liverpool on Monday afternoon. The news is not of much interest.

In the Senate a Message had been received from the President urging the adoption of measures to suppress the hostilities of the Indians along the overland route to California, and submitting to the Military Committee, who would report a bill without delay, organising a force of 3000 mounted men. A bill remitting penalties incurred by emigrant ships in certain cases has been passed. The Judicial Reform Bill was postponed until December next. A joint resolution to establish a lighthouse at Cape Race has been passed. A resolution calling upon the State and Treasury departments for information relative to pauper and convict emigration from foreign countries, and the agency those countries had in the matter, and directing an inquiry into what legislation was necessary to prevent such emigration, voluntary or otherwise, was introduced. In the House of Representatives a similar Message to that sent to the Senate, relative to the depredations of the Indians, had been read, but leave to report a bill for raising an adequate force was objected to. The third reading of the Pacific Railroad Bill was passed by a large majority. An ineffectual effort was made to procure a resolution providing for an expedition to search for Dr. Kane. On the 21st the Pacific Railroad Bill was placed in charge of the Select Committee. The French Spoliation Bill had been reported to the House. The amount claimed was estimated at from 10,000,000 dols. to 40,000,000 dols.

Advices from Washington state that Secretary Guthrie does not design leaving the Cabinet, as reported. No changes are likely to take place in the Cabinet.

The Captain of the *New Era* had been censured by the United States Grand Jury for the loss of that vessel. A disastrous fire had occurred at New York. The boiler of the steam-ship *Great Republic*, loading at Brooklyn, had exploded, and severely injured the engineer and several labourers.

About twenty participants in the last revolutionary intrigues of Mazzini have been arrested in Verona.

PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

PARIS, Feb. 6.

The Exhibition mania, with its attendant extravagances, has now fairly seized upon the population of Paris. Everybody is to make a fortune during next summer. The three millions of people who entered the Great Exhibition of 1851 were a mere handful of visitors when compared with the incalculable throngs that in the heat of midsummer will block up the broad thoroughfares of the French capital. We are reminded that Paris is more accessible than London; that there is more to see upon the banks of the Seine than upon the banks of the Thames; and, moreover, that the Paris Universal Exhibition will far surpass the Great Exhibition of Hyde-park in effect and in excellence. Our Exhibition is regarded here simply as an experiment, by which our neighbours intend to profit. "You see," said a Frenchman to me the other day, "the English initiate; but it is the mission of the French to perfect." Against prejudices of this stamp it is in vain to argue. We must be content in the presence of Frenchmen to allow that their Exhibition will almost obliterate the memory of ours, and to reserve criticism for the fireside on our return to England.

In the first place, any candid man who inquires into the method which the Imperial Commissioners have adopted for the conduct of their Exhibition—although he may admire the liberality of some of its provisions—cannot fail to be struck, also, with its general weakness. The operations of the Commissioners are as secret as the most cautious diplomacy; so that in Paris much less is known of the promises of May next than may be learned in London. For instance, it was announced in the early part of last month that on the 15th of the same month the Commissioners would have the Palace under their control, and from this date exhibitors were at liberty to send in their contributions. On the first of the present month I visited the Exhibition building. The scaffolding still blocked up the grand entrance, and the principal staircases were impassable. The design over the entrance (a colossal figure of France extending her patronising hands over Art and Industry) has, I believe, retarded the completion of this part of the Palace. I made my way through builders' rubbish into the Great Hall: here I found that not one-third of the flooring was laid, and the few men employed upon the work indicated no very keen anxiety on the part of the Commissioners or the contractors, or the company, that the building should be placed at the disposal of exhibitors at once. Should some unfortunate forward country send its contributions *en masse* at the present moment, it would puzzle the Commissioners how to dispose of them. They would certainly create great confusion in the Palace.

At the two extremities of the Great Hall painted windows are to be placed. The scaffolding is constructed for the insertion of these works of art. At the southern extremity about one-third of the window was fixed; and workmen, as I stood there, were winding themselves up from the ground in swinging platforms, resembling horse-boxes, to resume their labour near the roof. The Hall, spanned by bold, uninterrupted arches, will be the most striking part of the Exhibition; it has but one fault—the greenness of the glass by which it is covered. Of course a tricolor flag is now the most prominent object within this vast space. "They must have a flag and a bunch of flowers up when they have finished any part of their work," said an English gentleman connected with the works, when speaking of French workmen. Let me add that he gave these workmen an excellent character. Not a single foreign hand, he declared, had worked upon the Palace; and for the artistic parts of the building he had found Frenchmen unrivalled. At the corners of the building there are chambers, the interior of which is of elaborately carved stone: here, according to my informant, the genius of French workmen had been displayed to the best advantage.

Remarkable also are the broad arched galleries—wide as a transept of the Crystal Place, and floored with solid oak! These galleries are reached, not by little corkscrew staircases, but by steps of solid stone, protected by walls of carved stonework. From the galleries the view of the interior—painted grey throughout—is very fine. This grey is relieved by the painted windows, and by the delicate-coloured scrollwork which borders the galleries. The monotony of the exterior has also been relieved, by painting the iron-work before the windows the colour of chocolate, pointed with gold! Under the windows, cut deep into the stone, are the names of men illustrious as discoverers or manufacturers. They are, however, oddly jumbled together. Roger Bacon and Franklin elbow Reaumur and Oberkampf! The front of the building is, however, disfigured by lozenges, inserted at regular intervals, upon each of which the name of a French manufacturing town is obliquely scrawled! The wonderful gallery that stretches along the back of the Seine, and is a conspicuously ugly object seen from the Pont de la Concorde, admits of little or no description. Its greatest claim to attention is, that it is said to be the longest gallery in the world. It is wide and lofty, built chiefly of wood and zinc, and glazed only over a wide gap at the top. A narrow gallery is to be erected at each side, to afford more room for exhibitors; this, however, will certainly detract from the effect of the interior. At each extremity will be elaborate plaster designs. The entrance to it, in the corner of the Place de la Concorde, is rapidly approaching completion. The Picture Gallery also is, I believe, advancing rapidly. But still the Imperial Commissioners meet, or have their place of meeting, near the Invalides! Hence to the building is a good walk. Crowds of Exhibition officials will, of course, spring up, to read the *Presse* and talk about business. People complain loudly of the utter want of attention with which applications for instruction are met; and he who writes a letter in the hope of getting an answer is regarded as a rather unreasonable fellow. The vice of all Government offices in France, *viz.*—an utter disregard of letters—is unfortunately carried, with all its inconveniences, into the *bureau* of the Exhibition. However, Prince Napoleon, the President of the Imperial Commission, is now in Paris; and he will perhaps infuse a more active spirit through these sleepy offices.

It may interest your readers to learn that the catalogues of the Universal Exhibition have been made over to Emile de Girardin; and that the right of engraving views of the building has been sold to a particular firm. Thus it is pretended that no person save the purchaser of this right has the power to publish a representation of the exterior of the Palace. This is said to be the act of the company to which the Palace belongs, and not of the Imperial Commission. Its absurdity is obvious, since it restricts the publicity upon which the after success of the Palais de l'Industrie must depend. An instance of this occurred lately. A gentleman was preparing an illustrated journal of the Exhibition: he proposed to engrave the front of the Palace as the heading of his paper, but he was stopped by the information that he had no right to make such an engraving!

Still, the people of Paris believe in a summer of wonderful fortune. Hotel-keepers positively refuse to engage with visitors for their apartments, preferring to wait for that rush which will enable them to ask exorbitant prices. Wonderful projects, all pointing to the Exhibition, are on foot. There is the Diner de l'Exposition, with its waiters in plush and its gaudy salons; there are Hôtels Meublés springing up in every street; there are other Universal, European, Great Parisian, &c., Diners—all waiting for the rush in May. Let us hope that all this speculation will not be overdone. The experiences of Londoners in 1851 should warn our excitable allies against similar disasters. In April, 1851, London lodging-house keepers dreamt of fabulous prices, and of turn-up beds in their wine-cellars; in August of the same year they were forced to be content with fair prices for their accommodation. The same disappointment probably awaits Parisian speculators, so that it is well to warn them in time.

W. B. J.

HUTS FOR THE CRIMEA.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

Sir,—I presume that it may be admitted that the miserable remnant of one of the most gallant and heroic armies that ever left the shores of England, now in the Crimea, must be sacrificed to the grossest incompetence and most culpable negligence of all parties and all departments whose duties it was to have produced a very different result.

This is certainly bad enough; but it would be taking a very limited view of the melancholy case to suppose that the loss of the gallant survivors of Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman, is the only evil likely to result from the unfortunate mismanagement connected with the whole operations and arrangements of the campaign. The character of the country is at stake. Englishmen will no longer be considered capable of making arrangements on a great scale to meet the common emergency.

The excellence of the arrangements of the great civil establishments of the country have been considered as models worthy of imitation by many foreign countries in the formation of similar establishments. But it may now be questioned whether the recent blundering so ably exposed and so extensively circulated by the press will so far damage the national character as to prevent the employment of Englishmen abroad as civil or mechanical engineers, even as contractors.

Constitutional government may also be considered as having been brought into very great disrepute, its many checks and counterchecks, and the inharmonious if not antagonistic tuggings of the several Government departments, having resulted in the merest chaos of confusion, and supplied the advocates of despotic government with arguments in favour of the unity of action which they claim as peculiar to their own cherished system of rule.

It appears that the huts sent out to the Crimea are each two-and-a-half tons in weight, and this, in the absence of an efficient system of transport, will render them useless to the present wants of the army if the railway about to be constructed do not afford timely aid.

It is quite hopeless to suppose that the several departments of the Government will reform themselves, and, consequently, reform must be forced upon them by public opinion, acting through the energetic efforts of the public press.

The introduction of steam, and its almost universal application as a powerful mechanical agent, not only in connection with locomotion by sea and land, but also as affecting almost every application of human labour, has so completely changed the structure of society as a great operative and productive machine, that any one unacquainted with the improvements of the last twenty or thirty years can hardly carry on the ordinary mechanical operation with advantage.

The operations of war cannot with impunity claim an exemption from the onward march of improvement, as it is quite clear that, if the present war is continued for many years, it will, to a very great extent, become a contest of mechanical skill, and may ultimately become too destructive a game to be played at all.

The Government authorities have hitherto succeeded in setting at defiance almost every attempt to improve the efficiency of the military system. This, however, will not long be tolerated, as it is quite clear that there is ingenuity enough in the country to devise means and appliances for the equipment of our troops and the preservation of their health to enable our comparatively small armies to defeat the more numerous hosts of our enemies. Our soldiers are said to be fit only to fight, and that they can neither heat themselves nor cook their food. This is a very unjust accusation, when it is well known that the means of doing neither the one nor the other is placed within their reach.

If the Government were to calculate even the money value of a soldier before Sebastopol, they would most assuredly work him less, feed him better, and protect him from the inclemency of the weather. The huts sent out by Government are no doubt substantial and serviceable, but simpler and more expeditious modes of obtaining shelter for the troops under existing circumstances ought to have been adopted, and these modes ought to vary according to circumstances.

The following are a few sketches in section of a simple construction:—

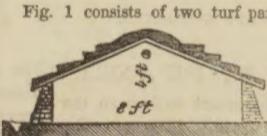


FIG. 1

being covered with thin sods lapping over each other. It would be necessary to lash the hurdles to the ridge with cords or vines, which are found of great length and tenacity in some countries. This hut would give ample space for eight men, but would hold sixteen on an emergency; and could be sufficiently completed in one day to afford shelter, and on the following day could be completed, which would always include a thorough drainage.

Fig. 2 is the same as Fig. 1, with the addition of being sunk into the ground

from two to three feet; and when the ground is not sufficiently strong to stand upright it must be faced with sods, which ought to be carefully cut from the surface of the area of the hut, and from the drain, so as to preserve the ground around the huts from being broken up.

Fig. 3 is substantially the same as Fig. 2, with the exception of the roof, which is composed of three-quarter inch board, firmly lodged on the inside, and the joints of the boarding secured by thin narrow slips on the outside. The two sides are hinged together along the whole ridge. These portions of roof are twelve feet long by five feet

from two to three feet; and when the outside would be placed towards each other. There would be no ridge pole necessary, as the eaves, or lower part of the roof, would be built into the upper part of the side walls. This would also be necessary to prevent the light roof from being blown away. This must, however, be done so as not to prevent the water from running freely off the roof, and finding its way into the drain. This roof, if made of white pine, would weigh about

three hundred weight. By adding to this hut, when practicable, a raised wooden floor placed sloping, as a guard-bed for the men to sleep upon, it would be tolerably comfortable. Boards one inch thick, well battened, would be sufficiently strong if supported upon dwarf sod wall, not very distant from each other. It would be twelve feet long by six feet broad, and would be conveniently divided into two portions longitudinally, as one portion could then be laid upon the other in the day time. The weight would be nearly two hundred and a half.

Whatever may be the fate of the present campaign, which appears to be disastrous in everything but the mere fighting part of the business, it appears very plain that the pickaxe and spade, however unchivalrous it may sound, must play an important part in all future campaigns; and, if soldiers have too much purely military duties to perform, there must be an auxiliary band of navvies, with a proportion of mechanics, to form entrenched camps, and to perform all the laborious duties not immediately under the fire of the enemy, and which they would perform much more expeditiously, and with greater economy, than the same duties can be performed by soldiers of the line.

A rifle regiment behind a loopholed parapet, which could be constructed by a gang of navvies in ten or twelve hours, armed with the most improved rifles and an ample supply of ammunition for distant firing, and each man supplied with two six-shot revolvers for close quarters previously to having recourse to the bayonet, should that be necessary, would most assuredly do more execution than five or six regiments, standing up to be shot at, without cover, in the ordinary unscientific way. Balaclava and Inkerman are cases where the above suggestion would have been eminently successful, and with comparatively trifling loss.

In the present siege in the Crimea the soldier has as much need to be protected from the inclemency of the weather when on night duty in the trenches as when in camp, and this may be accomplished with equal facility.

Fig. 4 is a sectional sketch of a trench sunk for example as a portion of the first or second parallel, or any portion of the more advanced works. The portions of the trench intended to be thus covered in could be left somewhat higher in the bottom of the excavation than the other portions of the trench, so as to ensure a good drainage. But, under all circumstances, an efficient drainage ought to be considered of vital importance.

These portions of the trenches would be covered in by hurdles and sods, or by battened boarding of convenient-sized portions, as above explained in connection with the huts. The windward end of each portion could be closed so as to prevent draught, and fires could be used without attracting the notice of the enemy.

The whole of the guard of the trenches, with the exception of the sentries

who could be relieved every hour, would thus be protected from the inclemency of the weather, and ready at a moment's notice to turn out in a comfortable and effective state, with their arms dry and fit for use.

It is very true that this mode of hutting and taking care of the soldier would be expensive; it would probably cost, even if executed by some rational business man, two or three pounds for every soldier's life that it would save; and the mere money value of a soldier before Sebastopol, taking into account the many millions spent by mismanagement, must be put down at several hundred pounds.

Having trespassed too much upon your valuable columns, and trusting to be permitted to resume the subject next week,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A CIVIL ENGINEER

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.

(From Tuesday Night's extra *Gazette*.)

War Department, Feb. 7.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle received last night a despatch, of which the following is a copy, addressed to his Grace by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.:

Before Sebastopol, Jan. 23.

My Lord Duke,—Nothing has occurred of importance in our front; but the enemy has occasionally opened a fire upon our left attack, and Mr. Spalding, a fine young man, an acting mate of her Majesty's ship *London*, and in charge of the battery, was unfortunately killed by a round shot the day before yesterday. His loss is deeply deplored.

I enclose the return of casualties to the 21st instant.

The weather has become milder, but the country is still in a dreadful state from melted snow.

The Army is well supplied with warm clothing, and if the Commissariat were adequately provided with transports, and the huts could be at once brought up, there would be no other cause of suffering than the severity of a Crimean winter, and the duties imposed of carrying on a siege in such a climate at this season of the year.—I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

WAR-OFFICE, Feb. 7.

The Right Hon. the Secretary-at-War has received from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle the following list of casualties amongst the non-commissioned officers and privates, in the forces under the command of Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B., from the 15th to 21st January, 1855, both days inclusive.

NOMINAL RETURN OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES KILLED FROM 15TH TO 21ST JANUARY, 1855, INCLUSIVE.

KILLED.	WOUNDED.
1st Battalion Rifle Brigade: Private James Leggett.	89th Foot: Private Henry Williamson.
2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Private Walter Newman.	44th Foot: Private Matthew Claire.

MISSING.	WOUNDED.
89th Foot: Private William Houston.	89th Foot: Private John Lawrison.
2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Private Richard Heming.	44th Foot: Private Matthew Claire.

KILLED.	MISSING.
4th Foot: Private Richard Heming.	89th Foot: Private John Lawrison.
5th Foot: Private William Dawson.	44th Foot: Private Matthew Claire.

KILLED.	MISSING.
12th Jan.—8th Foot: Private John Lawrison.	89th Foot: Private John Lawrison.
12th Jan.—8th Foot: Private John Lawrison.	44th Foot: Private Matthew Claire.

KILLED.	MISSING.
12th Jan.—8th Foot: Private John Lawrison.	89th Foot: Private John Lawrison.
12th Jan.—8th Foot: Private John Lawrison.	44th Foot: Private Matthew Claire.

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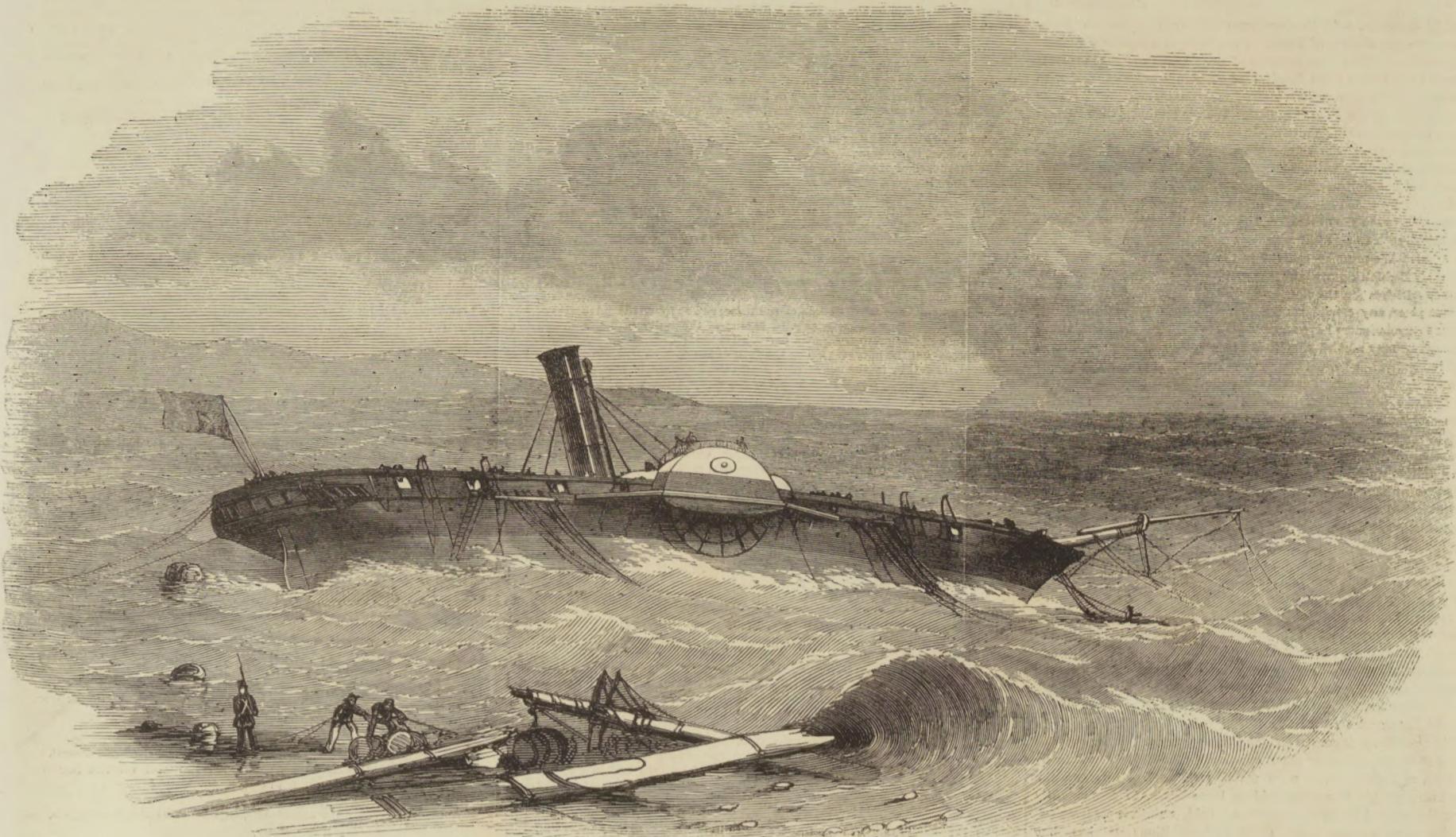
KILLED.	MISSING.
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12th Jan.—8th Foot: Private John Lawrison.	44th Foot: Private Matthew Claire.

KILLED.	MISSING.
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WRECK OF H.M. STEAM-SLOOP "HECLA," OFF GIBRALTAR.

LOSS OF HER MAJESTY'S STEAM-SLOOP "HECLA."

WE find the following details of this catastrophe in the *Gibraltar Chronicle*, dated Jan. 23—"The weather during the night and this morning has been very boisterous—the wind blowing hard from the east, with rain. Her Majesty's steam-sloop *Hecla*, Commander Hawker, which was returning from a cruise to the eastward, ran on shore at about half-past four o'clock this morning on the eastern beach, the weather being very bad at the time. The Captain was obliged to cut away the masts in order to save her. At the above date she lay in a very precarious position, and the sea was beating over her. Assistance had been rendered by the Captain of the port."

The *Mauritius*, which arrived at Portsmouth on the 3rd inst., reports that "little hope is entertained of the *Hecla* being got off. A Sardinian emigrant-ship had also been totally wrecked, by mistaking the lights of the *Hecla* for shore lights, and eight or ten emigrants had been drowned."

We are indebted to a Correspondent at Gibraltar for the accompanying Sketch of the wrecked vessel.

ATTACK ON THE REBEL TOWN OF DANISH ACCRA.

I REG to enclose a Sketch of the attack made by armed natives on the English Fort Christiansborg, at what was formerly Danish Accra. The attack by the natives commenced at half past seven o'clock on the morning of the 13th September, and was continued vigorously until four p.m., notwithstanding the entire town was in flames, and the well-directed fire of the fort.

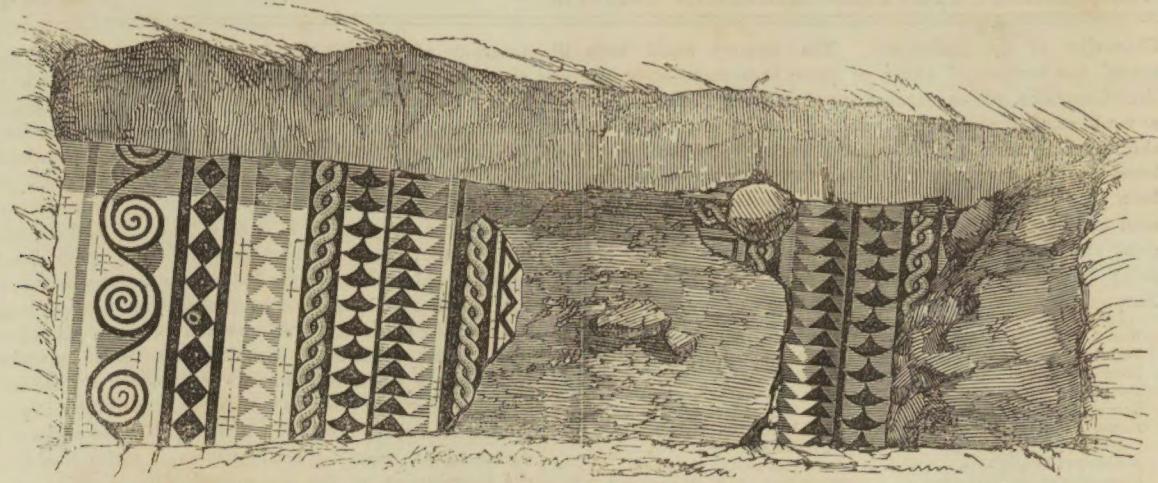
At five p.m. H.M.S. *Scourge* was signalled to come to the assistance of the fort, which she did in the most efficient manner, the 10-inch and 8-inch shot and shell making awful havoc amongst the enemy, who retired precipitately. The fort, I regret to say, sustained a loss of four killed and twenty-five wounded, including the Commandant, Captain Bird, of the Gold Coast Corps. The garrison consisted of Captain Bird, Lieutenants Brownell and Duke, and Ensign Clarke, of the Gold Coast Corps, with 120 rank and file; also Lieutenant Grubbe, of H.M.S. *Scourge*, who had volunteered to instruct the black soldiery in gunnery previous to the attack.

The enemy numbered 4000, and suffered a loss of about 300 in killed and wounded. The number of killed and wounded on our side sufficiently proves the obstinate attack made by the natives, who are by no means to be despised as foes.

By a private letter from Sierra Leone, dated December 15, we learn that six companies of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd West India Regiments, under the command of Captain Rookes, returned on the 26th of November in H.M.S. *Prometheus* from Danish Accra, where they had been employed in operations against the rebellious inhabitants of Christiansborg and Labadée. On the 2nd of December they re-embarked on board H.M.S. *Britomart*, *Prometheus*, and *Dover*, and proceeded up the Malecourie river to the fortified town of Malegeah, which was taken and occupied; after which a treaty was signed by the Kings and chiefs on the field, acceding to all terms demanded. The thanks of the senior naval officer and Government of Sierra Leone were given to Captain Rookes and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men under his command, for their services on this occasion.



H.M. STEAMER "SCOURGE" ATTACKING DANISH ACCRA.



TESSELLATED ROMAN PAVEMENT, RECENTLY FOUND AT IPSWICH.

ROMAN PAVEMENT FOUND AT IPSWICH.

THE discovery of this curious relic of Roman civilisation in Britain has already been noticed in our pages. It consists of a tessellated pavement and foundations of walls, at about fourteen inches deep, in a field not far from the village of Whilton, upon slightly-elevated ground, in digging for erecting a fence round a newly-built farmhouse. The pavement is about ten feet in length by three feet in breadth; the pattern is varied—a line of scrollwork, white upon a black ground; another in cabled form, composed of red, black, and white; a third in black squares placed lozenge-wise on white ground; and a fourth in triangles formed of circular arcs. The tesserae are about half an inch square, and the centre is filled up with



ROMAN REMAINS, RECENTLY FOUND AT BURGH.

fragments of ancient bricks. The field is called the Castle-hills, and is conjectured to have been the site of the Castle of the Bigods, destroyed in the twelfth century. There have been various concrete foundations discovered in the field, all of Roman work, some seven feet wide. Quantities of Roman bricks have recently been dug out, most of which were used in the foundations of the premises just built. Fragments of Samian ware, and other earthen vessels, have likewise from time to time been discovered in the field. Altogether, this is the finest Roman relic discovered of late years in the eastern counties.

ROMAN RELICS FOUND AT BURGH.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE accompanying Sketches (from the pencil of the Rev. J. B. Norman, of Bowness) represent some mutilated Roman remains recently dug up from a gravel-pit in the parish of Burgh-by-Sands—famous as the death-place of Edward I. One of the stations of the great Roman wall occupied the centre of the present village and the adjoining gravel-pit. Some bones (which, on being disinterred, speedily mouldered away) and a considerable quantity of broken pottery, handles of urns or vases, seem to warrant the supposition that the cemetery of the Roman town was placed there. Two bronze coins have also been found, but their legends are defaced by rust.

No. 1 is a fragment of a statue in low relief, of poor execution, representing a hand grasping a spear.

No. 2. A block of white freestone, with the numeral VII boldly cut.

No. 3. A circular ornament, with a moulding—of a cippus?

No. 4. A corner piece of a square ornament, with the letter S between two indented lines.

No. 5. A sepulchral slab (?) containing the name, and that not perfect, of the dedicator—"Cives," probably from Civis. After Trajan conquered the Dacians, some of them took service under the Roman eagles, and formed part of the garrison of this remote district. The head-quarters of the Dacians were at Amboglanum or Birdoswald. In a neighbouring village, a much-mutilated slab contains the word "NOR," sole survivor of a long inscription, whence it would seem that the ancient inhabitants of Austria and Salzburg, as well as of Wallachia and Moldavia, contributed to the defence of the wall.

ROMAN REMAINS AT BATH.—The workmen engaged in the excavations for the new sewer from Lansdown-road to Walcot Church, Bath, and which passes down Guinea-lane, the track of the old Roman road, "Via Julia," have made numerous discoveries of Roman remains. Among the antiquities found are a coin of Commodus, a fine specimen of the first brass; a portion of a broken flue-tile, the rim of a vessel of blackish brown colour, and several pieces of Samian pottery of different patterns. One piece appears to have been carefully drilled through, and stopped up with a leaden plug. Vessels of Samian pottery have been often found, mended by rivets, showing that the Romans valued this kind of ware. There have also been found two bottoms of vessels of the same kind of pottery, inscribed with the marks SVOBNED, OF, and PECVLIAR. Some stone coffins have also been dug up in Russell-street, and two portions of the bottoms of vessels, inscribed with the marks MARTJ. and QVINTL M. Similar marks may be found mentioned in the list of potters' marks given by Mr. Wright in his work, "The Celt, Roman, and Saxon." It is anticipated that, in the course of the sewerage operations at present going on, traces will be found of villas and other remains of the Roman inhabitants of the "City of the Waters of the Sun."

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE beautiful grounds of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, during the frost of last week, presented a new phase of seasonable enjoyment. The reservoirs and lakes, being completely frozen, were very numerously attended by skaters, and thus presented a novel picture for our Artist's pencil. The Skating Club also obtained permission to appropriate to their especial use a piece of water known as the intermediate reservoir, upon which a number of the members of the Club might be seen daily practising. The scene was altogether very animated, the frostwork lending a new charm to the grounds and the legion of panes in the Crystal Palace.

JOHN TIMBS, F.S.A.,

AUTHOR OF "CURIOSITIES OF LONDON."

WE engrave a Portrait of the Author of the above work, a review of which will be found in another part of the present number of our Journal. Mr. Timbs has been for many years honourably associated with the production of cheap and useful illustrated literature. "The Mirror" commenced by John Limbird, some three-and-thirty years since, was edited for eleven years by the subject of this sketch. Its unexceptionable character and marked success called up many imitators; but it outlived them all, and long kept at the head of that useful class of literature of which it was the pioneer.

Soon after the commencement of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, the Proprietors, fortunately, secured the services of Mr. Timbs as one of the Editors of this Journal, with which he has continued to be associated to the present hour—a period of twelve years. It does not become us here to say more of his labours, as our readers have had frequent opportunities of appreciating his merits. Of his active life we subjoin a few particulars.

JOHN TIMBS, F.S.A., AUTHOR OF "CURIOSITIES OF LONDON."
FROM A PAINTING BY T. J. GULLICK.

John, the second son of John and Deborah Timbs, was born in 1801, in Clerkenwell. Thence his family removed to the High-street, Southwark, where they carried on business as Italian warehousemen for nearly thirty years, in premises originally the Boar's Head Inn, part of Sir John Fastolf's benefaction to Magdalen College, Oxford, in the reign of Henry VII. The young John Timbs was educated under the Rev. Joseph Hamilton, D.D., and his brother, Mr. Jeremiah Hamilton, at New Marlborough, Hemel Hempstead, where the subject of this sketch for a considerable time issued a manuscript newspaper for the edification of his schoolfellows. At the age of fourteen he was articled to a druggist and printer at Dorking, in Surrey, where, at his master's table, he first met Sir Richard Phillips, who had just completed his "Morning's Walk from London to Kew." The great publisher kindly encouraged the boy-printer to contribute to his *Monthly Magazine*; and the beautiful country of the neighbourhood suggested the youth's first work, "A Picturesque Promenade round Dorking," in 1822; reprinted in the following year with a dedication to Mr. Thomas Hope, the author of "Anastasius." In 1821 John Timbs came to London, and for some years



SKATING IN THE GROUNDS OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE, SYDENHAM.

served as amanuensis to Sir Richard Phillips, in his publishing establishment in Blackfriars: of this very remarkable man the "Curiosities of London" contains several incidental recollections. About this time Mr. Timbs became acquainted with Mr. Britton, F.S.A., with whom he has maintained an unbroken friendship to this day. In 1825-6 Mr. Timbs published anonymously "Laconics," the result of a course of ethical reading; a selection described by a critic in "The Examiner" to have "been made by a man of nice discernment, who knew where to look for good things, and to make the best of use of them when he had found them." In 1827 Mr. Timbs became Editor of "The Mirror," and so continued until 1838; compiling, also, an annual volume of records of Discoveries in Science and Art. This design he improved as "The Year-book of Facts," in 1839, characterised as "a laborious production of patient industry." Besides contributing to periodicals, Mr. Timbs has produced the following works:—

"Promenade round Dorking," 1822. The same, second edition, 1823. "Laconics; or, the Best Words of the Best Authors," three vols., 1826. "Mirror," edited, 1827-1838 (twenty-two vols.). "Cameleon Sketches," 1828. "Companion to the Theatres," 1829. "Arcana of Science and Art," 1828-1838 (eleven vols.). "Wine-drinker's Manual," 1830. "Family Manual," 1831. "Knowledge for the People; or, the Plain Why and Because" (four vols.), 1831-2. "Popular Zoology," 1834. "Domestic Life in England," 1835. "The Instructor," vol. 2 (written for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), 1835. "Family Handbook," 1837. "Hints for the Table," 1838. "Literary World" (three vols.), 1839, 1840. "London Anecdotes" (two vols.), 1848. "Illustrated Year-book" (two vols.), 1850, 1851. "Wellingtoniana," 1852. "Year-book of Facts," 1839, 1855 (seventeen vols.).

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 11.—Sexagesima Sunday.
MONDAY, 12.—Lady Jane Grey and her husband beheaded, 1554.
TUESDAY, 13.—Massacre of Glencoe, 1691.
WEDNESDAY, 14.—St. Valentine. Captain Cook killed, 1779.
THURSDAY, 15.—National Debt commenced, 1500.
FRIDAY, 16.—
SATURDAY, 17.—Battle of St. Albans, 1451. Michael Angelo died, 1564.

HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 17.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m

58 8 48 8 19 8 36 9 38 1021 11 8 11 33 Tide No 0 29 1 3 1 29 1 37 2 21 2 46

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1855.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

The pernicious interregnum of Ministerial authority is at an end; and Lord Palmerston occupies the place which the public voice had set apart for him long before the dissensions in the late Cabinet had reached their maturity. The changes made have been exceedingly few, and amount to a reconstruction of the old, rather than to the creation of a new, Ministry. The Earl of Aberdeen—whose political character was tainted with the original sin of having too long believed in peace and in the good faith of the Czar—has retired before the storm of public disapproval; and will regain, as an independent member of the Legislature, some portion of the esteem and popularity which he failed to secure in office. Impartial history will do him justice; and even his contemporaries, amid all the heats and animosities of the hour, will confess his honesty and purity of purpose. When the quarter or half a million of bayonets that Austria will ere long bring into the field are employed in support of the cause of Great Britain and France—as they are certain to be, at a period much earlier than many people suspect—the far-seeing sagacity and patient ability of Lord Aberdeen will receive some portion of the credit to which they are entitled, and Europe will admit, even if his own countrymen deny, his claim to wise, prudent, and successful statesmanship. The Duke of Newcastle—damaged in a similar manner, but from dissimilar causes—has also retired from the responsibilities of government, but will yield to the Administration of Lord Palmerston his independent and, we believe, his cordial support. The reputation of the Duke of Newcastle has not suffered by the late Ministerial crisis. It stood lower before the sudden resignation of Lord John Russell than after that event, and a reaction has already commenced in his favour, which, at some future time, will have the effect of again securing his valuable services to the public in some other department than that which he had not the good fortune to reform. Lord John Russell preceded his colleagues in retirement from the public service, and has not been included in the new arrangements. His presence in the late Cabinet was a main source of disunion; and his absence from the present Government will lend it strength—the more especially as his Lordship is not in a position to take his seat alongside of Mr. Disraeli, or to assume the task of leader of another section of the Opposition. In default of his own Premiership, which appears to have been the great desideratum in his Lordship's mind, Lord Palmerston is the statesman whom he himself has most emphatically designated as the fittest to conduct the affairs of the country. So far the advice of Lord John Russell has been taken; and his Lordship, though he may oppose in minor matters, cannot do otherwise than support the general policy of a Government which, to this extent at least, is of his own making. Lord Panmure, another statesman especially designated by Lord John as equal to the all-important duties of War Minister, has been selected by Lord Palmerston to fill that post, so that the section of the Whig party which is out of office, and which may be supposed to yield allegiance to and fight under the banner of the noble Member for London, cannot, without a factiousness of which no one has any present right to accuse it, oppose the Ministry on the ground of the inefficiency of the new War Minister. Mr. Sidney Herbert's late office will merge into that of the War Minister; and the right hon. gentleman, with his Parliamentary standing and high abilities, will continue his services to the Crown and country in the capacity either of Home or Colonial Secretary, as may be hereafter, or as perhaps has been already, arranged. Mr. Layard will be the first occupant of a new office to be created under the Minister of War, and will be Under-Secretary of State for that department. Earl Granville succeeds Lord John Russell as President of the Council; or, in other words, resumes a post which he previously filled with honour to himself and advantage to the country; but from which he retired at a recent period that he might not stand in the way of arrangements which were believed at the time—though, as it now appears, erroneously—to give efficiency and stability to the Aberdeen Ministry. The Earl of Clarendon retains the seals of the Foreign Department; and Mr. Gladstone those of

Chancellor of the Exchequer. The country could have ill spared the services of either of these statesmen—especially of Lord Clarendon, whose management of its foreign relations during a most critical period has reflected the highest credit on his skill, sagacity, and patriotism, and been of the most essential benefit to his country. Sir James Graham—whose health has been partially re-established, and which it is to be hoped will soon be sufficiently restored to enable him to return to the fulfilment of the duties which he has hitherto discharged so ably—angry Napier notwithstanding—retains the administration of the Navy. The list of the new Cabinet therefore stands as follows:—

First Lord of the Treasury	- - -	Viscount PALMERSTON.
Lord Chancellor	- - -	Lord CRANWORTH.
President of the Council	- - -	Earl GRANVILLE.
Privy Seal	- - -	Duke of ARGYLL.
Foreign Secretary	- - -	Earl of CLARENDON.
Home Secretary	- - -	Right Hon. SIDNEY HERBERT.
Colonial Secretary	- - -	Sir GEORGE GREY.
Minister at War	- - -	Lord PANMURE.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	- - -	Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.
First Lord of the Admiralty	- - -	Sir JAMES GRAHAM.
Public Works	- - -	Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH.
In the Cabinet, but without office	- - -	Marquis of LANSDOWNE.
President of the Board of Control	- - -	Sir CHARLES WOOD.

The Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Chief Secretaryship for Ireland remain vacant, and it is possible that Mr. Sidney Herbert and Sir George Grey may change places.

The only statesman whose name has been brought prominently before the public as likely to lend his aid to the Ministry, and who is not included in the arrangement, is Earl Grey. It is impossible not to respect the reasons which have induced his Lordship to refuse the office of War Minister, for which the decision of his character and the course of his studies appear to have so thoroughly qualified him; but in refusing to be a Minister he will not refuse either the aid of his genius and experience, or of his vote in support of the general principles on which Lord Palmerston's Government is founded. The country has unanimously demanded a strong Government. Lord Palmerston's is the strongest that it was possible to form. If it be not strong enough in itself, it will fall like its predecessor; but if its weakness do not result from any inherent vice in its composition, but from want of due Parliamentary support, Lord Palmerston has the remedy in his hands. An appeal to the country would give him an overwhelming majority. The House of Commons knows this; and will, doubtless, be as patriotic and docile as the new Ministry can desire, or the urgency of public affairs commands.

THE Duke of Newcastle's retirement from office has been accomplished with a better grace than usually attends a Ministerial *exit*; and his Grace owes this advantage to one who certainly did not desire to do any kindness to a late colleague. Roused by the ungenerous and uncandid attack of the ex-President of the Council, the Duke addressed himself to his fellow Peers in a tone of manliness and earnestness that at once set him right with everybody: even the Earl of Derby, sore at the failure of his attempt to get together a Cabinet, scarcely managed, in reply, to vent a sarcasm of average point, low as the oratorical standard is fixed in the august assembly in question. But the Duke did more. Having obtained the permission of his Royal Mistress to make certain disclosures connected with the interior life of the Government, he completely convicted his assailant in the Commons of petulance, of precipitancy, and of insincerity; and a few simple touches produced such a portrait of Lord John Russell in the character of a colleague as will, one would imagine, effectually deter any future constructor of a Cabinet from voluntarily including his Lordship in Ministerial arrangements.

A resignation which might otherwise have been a somewhat ignoble retreat has thus been invested with a species of *éclat*. The champion who falls by an unfair thrust avenges himself well if, in falling, he cleaves his enemy with a downright blow. Lord John Russell's manoeuvre has ejected two of the Peelites from office, but the ablest of the party remain; while one of the two who retire has, by a single speech, made his Lordship's own return to office all but an impossibility. So that, on counting gain and loss, and especially setting his Lordship's own value upon his Parliamentary character, the balance-sheet will not present a very favourable aspect.

We do not, of course, intend to imply that the Duke of Newcastle offered such a defence of the administration of the War Department as could render it desirable that the sentence which virtually dismissed him from office should be reconsidered. There is no answer to the "heart-rending and horrible case" still receiving frightful additions in field and in hospital. However just it might be to apportion with exactitude the blame which should rest upon each official, and the still more formidable amount with which the system itself must be credited, that course is impracticable. Those who have assumed the perilous honour of representing the system must submit, when it has been tried and found so fatally wanting, to bear no small part of the odium in which it is involved. Nor have they a right to complain on the ground that they had not the power to make the system succumb to the exigencies of the occasion. To lack such power, at a grand crisis, is to stand self-condemned; and, whether skill or courage were wanting for the purpose, the absence of either becomes, under the circumstances, an actual and unpardonable offence. No appeal, therefore, lies from the verdict of the Commons. In the lesson given by that verdict is implied what the country demands of the new War Ministry.

But in vindicating himself from the imputations sought to be fixed upon him by Lord John Russell the Duke was perfectly successful. The impression which Lord John endeavoured to leave upon the mind of the country was, that the Duke of Newcastle was a vain, incapable man, who had clung to office with the tenacity common to incapacity; and, by way of corollary, the ex-President would have led us to regard his own self-sacrificing manoeuvre which contributed to the ejection of such an individual from office as a master-deed of patriotism. But Lord John's industrious little attempt in his own favour met with the discomfiture its littleness deserved. The Duke of Newcastle showed upon evidence which would even have been satisfactory in a court of law, and which of course carried instant conviction to the minds of the men of honour around him, that he had not only been at no time

tenacious of place, but that he had actually offered to forego any claim to place which his services in peace time might be supposed to give him. Further still, he proved that so completely had he understood the character of his colleague, long before the demonstration which shook the Ministry, that he had pressed upon his chief the warning counsel to do nothing which could give Lord John "an excuse for quitting the Cabinet." This remark the ex-President angrily referred to as a "sneer," and characterised as uncalled for; but, if anything were needed to justify it, such justification would be found in the fact that Lord John Russell, unable to find an "excuse" for quitting, quitted in an inexcusable manner.

It is with much regret that we find ourselves obliged to record and to call attention to circumstances which place the late leader of the House of Commons in a position of humiliation. No friend of liberty or progress will forget the services which have been rendered to both by Lord John Russell. But the affairs of a nation do not admit, when a special question is under consideration, of the introduction of the sentimental element which softens the dealings of social life. A country cannot afford to forgive its servant for the shortcomings of this year on the ground of good service years ago. State work is too grave to be regarded except upon its own merits; and were a gentler rule adopted its mischief would be incalculable, because the higher the previous character of an individual, the larger are his powers for injury. If a man like Lord John Russell is to be judged by his antecedents at all, they must be appealed to against himself, and we must demand that he act up to the standard to which he has himself taught us to refer. Therefore, when, towards the termination of an honourable course, we find a statesman of merit stooping to the artifices of faction, and prompted, whether by ambition or mere petulance, to acts of insincerity and unfairness, it is not the recollection of old service that should prevent those who have honoured him from pointing out how unworthy of its general character is the close of his career. In the present case, Lord John Russell has by his own confession of "errors," as well as by irrefragable evidence adduced by the individual he has assailed, added another link to the long chain of proof that selfishness will at times override and vitiate all the most estimable qualities of mankind, while the Duke of Newcastle, although assuredly he has not shown that he was the War Minister required by the crisis, has approved himself a man of honour and of earnestness, and perhaps nothing in his official career has become him like the unexpected and becoming manner in which he has terminated it.

THE COURT.

The "Ministerial interregnum" has had the effect of bringing the Court to London more than once during the past week. After the failure of the Earl of Derby to form an Administration, Lord John Russell was commanded to wait upon the Sovereign at Buckingham Palace. His Lordship had audiences of her Majesty on the 2nd and 3rd instant; but, failing in his turn, the Queen sent for Viscount Palmerston, who accepted the arduous task on Saturday last, and has so far completed his arrangements, that, at a Privy Council held by her Majesty at Windsor Castle on Thursday, the new members of the Cabinet were presented and sworn into office.

On Sunday the Queen and Prince, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice, Prince Alfred, and the Duchess of Kent, the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court, and the domestic household, attended Divine Service in the private chapel of the Castle. The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor performed the service, and administered the holy communion.

On Monday the Queen and Prince Albert travelled to London by the Great Western Railway, arriving at Buckingham Palace at a few minutes before one o'clock. Shortly after the Queen's arrival her Majesty gave audience to Viscount Palmerston. Later in the afternoon the noble Viscount had a second audience of the Queen. Her Majesty and the Prince left Buckingham Palace at half-past six o'clock, on their return to Windsor Castle.

On Wednesday her Majesty held a Chapter of the Order of the Garter at Windsor Castle. In the evening the Queen gave a grand banquet in the Waterloo Chamber.

Lord Alfred Paget has succeeded Major-General the Hon. Charles Grey as Esquire-in-Waiting to her Majesty.

THE ORDER OF THE GARTER.

The Queen held a Chapter of the Most Noble Order of the Garter at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, in Windsor Castle.

The Knights Companions present were—The Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Exeter, the Duke of Buccleuch, Earl De Grey, Earl of Clarendon, Marquis of Abercorn, Marquis of Salisbury, Duke of Bedford, Earl Spencer, Earl Fitzwilliam.

The Knights Companions having proceeded to an election, the Chancellor presented the suffrages to the Sovereign, who commanded the Chancellor to declare that George William Frederick, Earl of Carlisle, had been duly elected a Knight of the Order. The Earl of Carlisle having been introduced, the ceremony of investiture was proceeded with, at the close of which his Lordship kissed her Majesty's hand, and, having received the congratulations of the Knights Companions, retired.

The like forms of election and investiture were then gone through with the Earl of Ellesmere and the Earl of Aberdeen; the latter nobleman retaining, by her Majesty's special command, the Order of the Thistle.

The Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, the Princess Alice, and the Princess Helena, witnessed the investiture in the Chapter-room.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge waited on the Queen on Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, and was honoured with an interview of some duration by her Majesty. The illustrious Duke has received complimentary visits, at his apartments in St. James's Palace, from nearly all the persons of distinction at present in London. Viscount Palmerston called upon his Royal Highness on Saturday.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

PRAYER AND INTERCESSION.—The following circular has been issued by the Bishop of London:—London-house, Feb. 5. Rev. and dear Sir,—It appears to me desirable that the clergy should appoint a particular day during the season of Lent on which the minds of their congregations may be more specially directed to the offering up to Almighty God of united prayer and intercession for the safety and success of their brethren now serving in our armies and fleets, and for the restoration of peace. I would suggest the third Sunday in Lent for this purpose. The clergy are not at liberty to depart from the prescribed Order of Common Prayer; but they may, by previous notice, direct the thoughts of their parishioners to this special object. I am, Rev. and dear Sir, your affectionate friend and servant, C. J. LONDON.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—*Rectories*: The Rev. R. Jarratt to Bourton-on-the-Hill, Gloucestershire; Rev. R. J. Roberts to Yscieglo, Flintshire. *Vicarage*: The Rev. R. L. Lewis to Derbigh. *Incumbencies*: The Rev. W. P. Babington to Manningtree, Essex; Rev. G. Ross to Sheepscomb, Gloucestershire.

PRESERVATION OF PLATE.—A dinner was given in the common room of Worcester College, Oxford, on Friday, the 2nd instant, at which the Rev. Dr. Cotton, Provost of the College, and Vice-Chancellor, presided, for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to the Rev. R. Greswell, B.D., late fellow and tutor of the College, to mark the sense entertained by the society of the Rev. Gentleman's valuable services during the long period of his tutorship, and its esteem for his private character. It consisted of a very handsome service of silver plate, valued at £280, and was procured by subscription amongst the present and former members of the College, most of whom had been Mr. Greswell's pupils.

The Lord Bishop of Oxford has appointed Robert Joseph Phillimore, Esq., D.C.L., of Doctors' Commons, Chancellor of the diocese of Chichester and Salisbury, M.P. for Tavistock, to be Chancellor of the diocese of Oxford, in the room of his late father, Dr. Joseph Phillimore.

The total number of merchant-vessels of all classes taken up by the Government for war purposes has been 206, of an aggregate burthen of 205,388 tons, their average capacity being almost exactly 1000 tons.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THERE are plenty of subjects that ought to interest the world of England in general and London in particular at present; but during the larger portion of last week they were all utterly absorbed, *floci, puli, nilli*, quite annihilated and consumed, in the one great question—who are our rulers? Fancy a man who has defrauded the revenue, and whose conscience, pricking him, cannot be satisfied, because he does not know to what Chancellor of the Exchequer he should pay (to be duly acknowledged in the *Times*) £5 10s. for misreturned Income-tax or suppressed Customs-duties! But all uncertainty on this subject is now at an end;—and Gladstone remains as before the recipient of conscience-money, and the head of the Finance department. Within the last ten days a change has come over the minds of men—of those especially who congregate in the morning rooms at White's, Brookes', Arthur's, or the Travellers', and the result of this change is the admission that there has been a fearful amount of mismanagement in our War Department, both at home and abroad. It seems difficult to measure out justly the relative amount of blame which is due to the Duke of Newcastle or to Lord Raglan. Just now the former is the larger creditor—in a week hence the latter may be. Probably our system of government (meaning thereby the arrangement of our public offices, the selling commissions, the intricacy of check and counter-check between departments), may be more in fault in either. It is certainly a state of things almost without parallel in the history of representative government that now in the very middle of a great war, when all our enormous resources are not too much for our necessities, we should have allowed ourselves to remain for a fortnight without a Ministry. The peculiarity of the case lies in the fact that from the first there was no doubt as to the main part of the Government that would succeed that of Lord Aberdeen. Every one knew that Lord Palmerston was to be at the helm. The appointment (which could have been only temporary) of any one else would have sent down Consols two or three per cent, and that is not to be risked in war time. Lord Grey's objection to accept the office of War Minister is said to be founded upon the peace speeches he made last session. Can he not adopt the advice of *Polonius*?

Beware

Of entrance to a quarrel; but, being in,
Bear 't, that the opposed may beware of thee.

General Evans made a rather unseemly blunder in his speech in acknowledgment of the thanks of the House of Commons. It was all right and proper that he should rectify Lord John's *laches* as to the conduct of his division; but it was not right that he should take that opportunity for making a violent attack upon Lord John. Lord Palmerston administered the rebuke courteous by moving that only so much of the gallant General's speech as expressed his gratitude to the House should be inserted in the minutes.

Sir Charles Napier and Lord Cardigan have been dining at the Mansion-house. The gallant Admiral in his speech (evidently an after-dinner one) has thrown down the gauntlet to the late Ministry, and Sir James Graham in particular, with a vengeance. He says that the Admiralty had neither "plain dealing nor honesty;" that "if Sir James Graham has one single bit of honour about him he will never take his seat again at the Admiralty till the matter is cleared up," &c. So there is evidently to be a very pretty quarrel—Napier v. Graham. Lord Cardigan spoke calmly and well, and was immensely cheered.

When a woman talks about her virtue, or a man about his courage, it is easy to guess that the existence of those qualities is somewhat doubtful. Now we, the British people, have a way of continually boasting that we are men of business, a practical nation; but it seems just possible that in this we are taking credit for what we do not entirely possess. Certainly the laying out millions upon millions on a transport service over the three thousand miles which separate London from the Crimea, without making the half-dozen miles of road between the coast and the camp, for the want of which all that enormous outlay has been hitherto nearly useless, is not a proof of our being practical; and two or three things which have occurred in the last twelvemonth—as, for instance, what became known only the other day—that one Cole, insolvent in 1848, was able to carry on in 1852 a fraudulent business to the amount of two millions sterling—do not look as if we were the best of men of business. But as regards this quality, there never was such a slap on the face of our self-esteem as what took place at the meeting this week between Sir Benjamin Hall and a deputation of ratepayers from certain parishes in the metropolis. It had transpired that it was the wish of the Chairman of the Board of Health to consolidate the smaller trusts for paving, lighting, &c.; and, of course, the first feeling of the officers of those trusts, when they heard of the plan, was, that thereby a good many comfortable appointments not overworked, would be swept away. Straight they appear before the Minister to remonstrate against this interference with vested interests. But, alas! poor men! they were unlucky enough to stumble on a head of department who had thought it necessary to make himself acquainted with the statistics of his business, and was not content to learn them from deputations. Never did men get such a dressing; and never was clearer proof given that the people of London—those celebrated men of business—have not yet learned how to manage their own affairs. It appeared that the cost of road management (i.e., overlooking) in two-and-twenty small metropolitan districts averaged £160 per mile. Some were far above the average—in the placid retreats of Ely-place, for instance, the expenses amount to twice as much. It is not uncommon to hear grumbler complain that the supply of gas in many streets is not too liberal. If they only knew what a deal it costs to inspect a lamp they would know better than to ask for more. In one district, and that not a small one, this duty cannot be fulfilled at a less cost than one pound ten shillings a year. What, then, are the onerous duties of the well-paid lamp-inspector? No one need any longer remain in ignorance of them, for one of the deputation holding that honourable office very frankly confessed that they were, in his case, "to see, once in three years, that the contract with the Equitable Gas Company was renewed."

Sir B. Hall has begun well, and has shown that he is not to be hoodwinked or put off from his purpose by interested clamours or misrepresentations. Heaven knows there is plenty for him to do! even without going farther than the outward and visible condition of the streets, and the enormous cost of keeping them in disorder. What we want is a central, responsible authority, endowed with sufficient power, to whom just complaints can be addressed with a reasonable prospect of speedy redress. Hitherto, no matter how crying an iniquity existed before a man's door or under his dining-room windows, it has been almost impossible to get it amended. In civic matters we groan under the joint-yet-separate rule of some half-dozen republics, all hating each other, and agreeing in nothing but a determination not to do each other's business. Aggrieved in some way by the streets or the drains, you post off to the Commission of Sewers, who will have nothing to do with you, but send you off to the Vestry; wrong again; you must go to the Paving Board; there you meet with little sympathy, but are told to apply to the Board of Health, who won't have anything to do with you, but refer you back to the Sewers; until, tired of revolving in a vicious circle you go home in despair, resolved to try to "bear the ills you have." This last week, in which heavy snow has been succeeded by rapid thaw, has given us very strong proofs of what an utter want of management there is in these matters. On Monday the pavement of Pall-mall was literally submerged by the sludge and mud which had accumulated in the gutters. In Paris every one of the larger streets is carefully swept and cleaned out every morning before eight o'clock. Alas! we still on many occasions may say with the author of a "Sentimental Journey," "they manage these things better in France."

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

BARONESS BASSET.

FRANCES BARONESS BASSET (in her own right) died on the 22nd ult., at her seat, Tehidy Park, Cornwall, aged seventy-three. Her Ladyship was the descendant of one of the oldest families in England—the great baronial house of Basset, which arose into power and importance immediately after the Norman Conquest, and gave a Chief Justice to England in the person of Ralph Basset, *temp. Henry I.* About the middle of the twelfth century the Bassets obtained the estate of Tehidy, in Cornwall, by marriage with the heiress of De Dunstanville; and, at the commencement of the sixteenth, the two noble seats of Umberleigh and Heanton Court, Devon, by the marriage of Sir John Basset with Joan Beaumont, descended from Sir William Beaumont and Isabel his wife, daughter and coheiress of Sir John Willington, of Umberleigh. In the great Civil War three brothers of the Bassets were eminently distinguished in the Royal cause.

Lady Basset was only daughter and heiress of Francis, late Lord De Dunstanville, who obtained the Barony of Basset of Stratton, with remainder to her. As her Ladyship has died unmarried, the title now becomes extinct.

GENERAL THE HON. ARTHUR PERCY UPTON, C.B.

GENERAL UPTON died on the 22nd ult., at Brighton, in his seventy-eighth year. He was the youngest son of Clotworthy, first Lord Templeton, and grandson of John Upton, Esq., of Castle Upton, co. Antrim, a military officer who distinguished himself at the battle of Almanza, and for his spirited conduct obtained the command of a regiment upon the fall of Colonel Killigrew.

The Hon. Arthur Upton, whose death we record, entered the Army 28th April, 1793; and, in the following year, joined the Duke of York's forces in Holland, where he went through the ensuing winter campaign. In 1799 he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to Sir Ralph Abercromby, and took part in the operations on the landing near the Helder. He was also in the Walcheren Expedition, and assisted at the siege of Flushing. From 1811 to 1812 he served at Cadiz; and from 1812 to the close of the war in 1814 with the Duke of Wellington's army, on the Quartermaster-General's Staff. In

1815 he was employed as Military Correspondent with the Bavarian army, and was present with it in its various operations. He received the gold medal and one clasp for Vittoria and the Nive; and the silver war medal with one clasp for Nivelle. General Upton was Knight of Maximilian-Joseph of Bavaria, a Companion of the Bath, and Equerry to R.H.R. the Duchess of Kent.

THE REV. SIR THOMAS GERY CULLUM, BART.

THE death of this lamented Baronet occurred on the 26th ult., after a short illness, at his fine old Elizabethan seat, Hardwick-house, near Bury St. Edmunds. Sir Thomas was born 23rd October, 1777, the elder son of Sir Thomas Gery Cullum, 7th Baronet, of Hawstead and Hardwick, F.R.S., F.S.A., by Mary his wife, sister and heiress of Sir Levett Hanson, Knt., and grandson of Sir John Cullum, 5th Baronet, by Susanna, his second wife, daughter and coheiress of Sir Thomas Gery, Knt., one of the Masters in Chancery. The Baronetcy was conferred 18th June, 1660, on Thomas Cullum, Alderman of London, the purchaser of Hawstead and Hardwick, who was himself a staunch cavalier and adherent of Charles I., and who had married Mary Crispe, first cousin of the noted Royalist Sir Nicholas Crispe. Sir Thomas Cullum (whose death we record) would, had he survived his cousin, Lady Harland, have assumed the name and arms of Vernon only, and succeeded to the estates of the late John Vernon, Esq., at Wherstead-park and Great Thurlow-hall, county Suffolk. He married, first, 27th August, 1805, Mary Anne, only child of Henry Eggers, Esq., of Woodford, Essex; and, secondly, 30th April, 1832, Ann Lloyd, of Kingstown, Dublin. By the former, who died 29th January, 1830, he leaves an only child, Arthusa Susannah, who married, in 1832, the Right Hon. Thomas Milner Gibson, M.P. By the second lady (who survives him) he has left no issue. Sir Thomas's only brother, John Palmer Cullum, Bath King of Arms, having died s.p., in 1829, no male heir of the family remains, and the Baronetcy, in consequence, becomes extinct.

SIR GEORGE BEST ROBINSON, BART.

THIS gentleman died on the 28th ult., at Dyrham, Gloucestershire, at his brother's Rectory. His family has long been connected with the East; and his father, the late Sir George Abercrombie Robinson, of Batts-house, co. Somerset, M.P. for Honiton, who was Military Auditor-General in Bengal, and afterwards one of the Directors, and several times Chairman, of the East India Company, was created a Baronet the 11th Nov., 1828. Sir George Best Robinson, the second Baronet, the subject of this notice, was himself for some years her Majesty's Chief Superintendent in China, in which office he succeeded Lord Napier; and his administration in that capacity was mentioned with approbation by the leading statesmen in both Houses in the debates on the Opium War in 1840. Sir George was born at the Cape of Good Hope, 14th Nov., 1797; and married, 5th Dec., 1825, Louisa, youngest daughter and coheiress of the late Major-General Douglas, of Garston, N.B., by whom (who died in 1843) he leaves a daughter, Louisa, wife of C. R. G. Douglas, Esq., 32nd Bengal Infantry; and four sons, of whom the eldest, the present Sir George Abercrombie Robinson, third Baronet, is a Captain in the 22nd Regt.

Of the late Baronet's surviving brothers, two are in the Bengal service, viz. Francis Horsley Robinson, Esq., and Edward Innes Robinson, Esq.; and the other is the Rev. William Scott Robinson, M.A., Rector of Dyrham, co. Gloucester, and Farleigh, Hungerford, co. Somerset.

SIR JOHN WILLIAM PIT MUIR MACKENZIE, BART., OF DELVINE, PERTHSHIRE.

SIR JOHN MUIR MACKENZIE died on the 1st inst., in Montagu-place, Russell-square. He was the only son of the late Sir Alexander Muir, who assumed the additional surname of Mackenzie on succeeding to the estates of his maternal grand-uncle, John Mackenzie, Esq., of Delvine; and was created a Baronet 9th November, 1805.

Sir John was born in 1806; and married, in 1832, Sophia-Matilda, fifth daughter of the late James Raymond Johnstone, Esq., of Alva, county Clackmannan, by whom he leaves a son and successor, now Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie, third Baronet, of Delvine, born in 1840.

GENERAL JOHN MILLETT HAMERTON, C.B., COLONEL OF THE 55TH REGIMENT.

THIS highly-distinguished officer died on the 27th ult., at Orchardstown, his country residence in Tipperary, after a short illness. He was a soldier from his youth, and obtained his first commission of Cornet at the early age of fifteen, in 1792. In 1794 he served under the Duke of York; in 1795 embarked for the West Indies; in 1796 assisted at the capture of St. Lucia; and, in 1801, fought with distinction in Egypt. Subsequently he took part in the Peninsular campaigns, in command of the 1st Battalion of the 44th. At Waterloo he bravely led on the 2nd Battalion of the same gallant regiment, and was left for dead on that bloody field, having received several severe wounds in the head and thigh. Owing to the attachment of a faithful non-commissioned officer, Sergeant Ryan, who brought his wounded and insensible commander under the care of skilful medical treatment, he slowly recovered, and with his devoted follower returned home.

A chivalric soldier, an honourable and most amiable gentleman, General Hamerton is deeply lamented by all who came within the influence of his high and endearing qualities.

REAR-ADmirAL SIR JOHN HILL.

THIS gallant Admiral—one of the survivors of the glorious battle of the Nile—died on the 20th ult., at Walmer Lodge, Deal, aged eighty-one.

Sir John entered the Navy in 1781; became Lieutenant 28th July, 1794; and was advanced to the rank of Commander 8th October, 1798, for his conduct as Senior Lieutenant of the *Minotaur*, at the Nile. He attained Post rank 28th October, 1815, and was made Rear-Admiral of the White in 1853.

From 1820 to 1836 he was resident Commissioner of the Victualling Board at Deptford; and from 1838 to 1841 acted as Captain-Superintendent of the Dockyard at Sheerness. In the last-named year he returned to Deptford, and officiated there as Captain-Superintendent until 1851, when he finally resigned on promotion. The Admiral leaves (besides daughters) one son—a military officer.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL COETHER.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL COETHER, C.B., died on the 24th ult., at his house in York-buildings, Gloucester. His soldier-like career was one of long and valuable service, and of the highest possible credit. So far back as 1806 he covered the landing of the force under Sir David Baird at the Cape of Good Hope, and was present in the general action of Blue Berg, and in all the operations that took place until the surrender of the colony. He covered the advance of the force under General Beresford at the reduction of the River Plate, and was engaged in every affair at and in the vicinity of Buenos Ayres. On the surrender of that place he was taken prisoner, together with the whole force, and was marched nearly a thousand miles into the interior. In Portugal, in 1808, Coether commanded the light companies of the brigade under General Ferguson at the battles of Rolia and Vimiera; and was afterwards engaged incessantly with the 71st Regiment on the retreat to and at the battle of Corunna. In 1811 he was again in Portugal, and was at Arroyo de Molinos when General Gurard was captured. Coether's command of the storming parties at the taking of the Forts of Almazán, on the Tagus, obtained for him the brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel. He led the 71st at the battle of Vittoria, and there received three musket-balls through his clothes and in his saddle, and was wounded by a fourth. He subsequently passed seventeen years in Ceylon, and commanded in the Eastern Provinces in the Kandian country during the rebellion in 1818.

Lieutenant-Colonel Coether was a C.B., and had a silver war-medal, and a gold medal for Vittoria.

CAPTAIN CHARLES GEORGE BUTLER, H.M. 86TH REGT.

HEAVILY indeed has the hand of death fallen on the gallant sons of General Butler. A few months since three were in the military service of their country, and now not one of them survives. The eldest, Captain Henry Thomas Butler, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General in the East, fell gloriously in action at Inkermann; the youngest, Captain James Armar Butler, the heroic defender of Sestri, died there on the 22nd of last July; and the second, Captain Charles George Butler, commanding the Military Sanitary Station at Poonrundhur, completes, by his death at Bombay on the 18th December, the melancholy mortality.

These distinguished brothers were the sons of Lieut.-General the Hon. Henry Edward Butler, uncle and heir presumptive of the Earl of Carrick.

Captain Charles George Butler, the subject of our present notice, was born in 1823. He entered the Army 3rd Nov., 1840, and served during Sir Charles Napier's campaign against the Mountain and Desert Tribes. He was made Lieutenant 8th April, 1842, and became Captain 15th March, 1853.

He married 29th May, 1850, Jane Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late Captain Prosser.

JAMES MACDONALD, M.D., ASSISTANT-SURGEON, MADRAS ARMY.

THIS promising medical officer, third son of the late Rev. Dr. Macdonald, of Ferrintosh, county Ross, died on the 13th November, on board the *Sesostris* steamer, from her passage from Rangoon to Calcutta, in the 31st year of his age. Few young men commenced their career under more favourable auspices, and few whose education, talents, and manners gave brighter hopes of future eminence.

WILLS AND CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.—Vice-Admiral Sir John Hall left personally estimated at £80,000.—Mr. John Minter Morgan, of Stratton-street, Piccadilly, has bequeathed £500 to the National Orphan Asylum, Han-common; £200 to the National School, Westminster; and other legacies to public schools—in the whole amounting to nearly £2000.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.			Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Hu- midity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain Inches.
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.	Mean Tempera- ture of the Day.				
Feb. 2	30.018	32.2	22.6	27.0	— 10.7	76	E.	0.00
3	29.504	37.5	27.2	32.0	— 5.8	95	E.	0.14
4	29.355	36.5	30.0	33.8	— 4.1	98	Calm	0.00
5	29.336	40.7	35.2	36.6	— 1.4	96	Calm	0.06
6	29.370	35.2	32.7	33.9	— 4.2	98	N.E.	0.02
7	29.748	34.8	31.1	32.8	— 5.4	87	E.	0.06
8	29.779	32.0	27.7	30.0	— 8.2	95	N.E.	0.18

NOTE.—The sign — denotes below the average. The numbers in the 7th column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The reading of the barometer decreased from 30.02 in. at the beginning of the week to 29.26 in. by the afternoon of the 4th; increased to 29.75 in. by the 7th, and decreased to 29.68 in. by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 29.568 inches.

The weather has been severe all the week, the sky has been overcast; the temperature has been below its average on every day, snow has fallen frequently, and crystals have been abundant.

J. GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The births of 1648 children were registered in the week ending February 3: of these, 845 were boys and

THE VOTE OF THANKS
TO SIR DE LACY EVANS.

On Friday evening, the 2nd inst., there was a very full attendance of members in the House of Commons, anxious to witness the interesting ceremony—a ceremony which has not occurred, we believe, since the conclusion of the last war—of conveying to Sir De Lacy Evans personally the thanks of the House for his distinguished services in the Crimea. The gallant General entered the House about twenty minutes past four, in full uniform, and with his orders glittering on his breast. He was received with the most expressive marks of honour. The whole of the members present remained standing and cheering him as he walked up the floor. He took the seat he used to occupy before his campaigns, on the front bench below the gangway. The Speaker then rose and said:

Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans, I have to inform you that on the 15th of December last the House agreed *nem. con.* to the following resolution:—

"That the thanks of this House be given to Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and to the several other officers, for their zeal, intrepidity, and distinguished exertions in the several actions in which her Majesty's forces have been engaged with the enemy."

Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans, it is with feelings of pride and satisfaction that this House welcomes the return amongst them of one who has borne so conspicuous a part in the brilliant achievements which have characterised the present war. At the battle of the Alma you encountered and overcame with admirable coolness and judgment the almost insuperable difficulties which opposed the advance of the gallant Second Division against the Russians. You repulsed the formidable attack of the Russians on the 26th of October, and the energy and valour with which you led the troops on that occasion have been honourably recognised. But it was on the heights of Inkermann that you displayed that undaunted courage (Cheers) and chivalrous generosity which have called forth the admiration of your country (Cheers)—when, rising from a bed of sickness, you hastened to assist with your counsel and experience the gallant officer in temporary command of your division, and refused to withhold from him the honours whilst you shared with him the dangers of the day. Your conduct throughout this memorable campaign has been marked by the same intrepid gallantry which distinguished your early military career, and has justly earned for you the highest honour which it is in the power of this House to confer. It is, therefore, my agreeable duty, in the name and on behalf of the Commons of the United Kingdom, to deliver to you their unanimous thanks for your zeal, intrepidity, and distinguished

exertions in the several actions in which her Majesty's forces have been engaged with the enemy (Cheers).

Sir De Lacy Evans could assure the Speaker and the House that he felt most deeply the very high honour that had just been conferred on him. He was deeply impressed with the conviction that there was no honour a British subject could look to with more anxiety, or be more proud of when obtained, than the recognition of his services, whatever those services might be, by the representatives of his fellow-subjects. He thanked the Speaker for alluding to his former military career, in which, though his services had not been recognised by the House, yet he had then a more difficult and a more intricate duty to perform. But, having alluded to this circumstance, he must express his gratitude to those gentlemen who did not concur with him in political opinions for the kindness which they had manifested towards him. The gallant General then proceeded to complain of Lord John Russell, that in moving the vote of thanks to the army he suppressed almost all allusion to the services of the Second Division, which he commanded, though in three general engagements—at Alma, on the 26th October, and at Inkermann—the Second Division bore the brunt of the battle for hours together. He did not state this on his own account—it was on account of the gallant officers and men whom he commanded; and he felt deeply grateful to the Speaker and to the House for the honour which was now done to them. He should hope to say a few words upon the state of the army, but he felt that this was not the proper time; other opportunities would arise for doing so. He begged once more to express his deep sense of the honour which had been conferred upon him.

Lord Palmerston said there was no duty which could fall to the lot of the Speaker of that House more agreeable than that which the right hon. gentleman had just been engaged in, and there never was a Speaker who had such an opportunity as the present of becoming the organ of the feelings both of the House and the country. These expressions ought to remain on perpetual record; and he therefore moved that the address of the Speaker, together with so much of the hon. and gallant General's reply as related to the expression of his thanks, should be entered on the records of the House. Mr. Walpole seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The unusual incident of the House of Commons communicating its thanks through the Speaker to one of its own members for gallantry in the field of battle may excite sufficient interest to justify some further notice of former testimonials to that gallant member. It is now forty-four years since Sir De Lacy Evans was five times, in as many months, mentioned in



LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR DE LACY EVANS, K.C.B., RECEIVING THE THANKS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.



THE MILITARY HOSPITAL, PORTSMOUTH.

SKETCHES IN THE CRIMEA.



SIMFEROPOL, FROM AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.

VIEWS IN THE CRIMEA.

despatches published in the *London Gazette* for having specially distinguished himself, not as a favoured member of the staff, but as a working soldier, who had been in ten battles and sieges, numerous skirmishes; had ridden on horseback, without rest, 300 miles on exigent service; had five horses killed under him, been three times wounded, and had led three or four desperate assaults in person, as desperate as any forlorn hope, and was still no more than a subaltern officer, only a friendless Lieutenant.

THE MILITARY HOSPITAL AT PORTSEA.

This scene represents another sad episode of the war, the contemplation of which cannot fail to exercise a humanising influence. The apartment before the reader is tenanted by sufferers from the Crimea, containing seventeen beds: there is no larger room in the Hospital, which is divided into large and small apartments. Here two young surgeons are about to dress the stump of a soldier's arm; while another sufferer in the foreground is anxiously watching the scene. Over each bed is a tin plate inscribed with the name of the occupant. The room is very light.

The French Government intends authorising a grand lottery at the period of the Grand Exhibition. The amount to be raised is, it is said, to be 10,000,000 francs; and it states that there are to be one large prize of 500,000 francs, four of 100,000 francs, and a great number of smaller amounts.

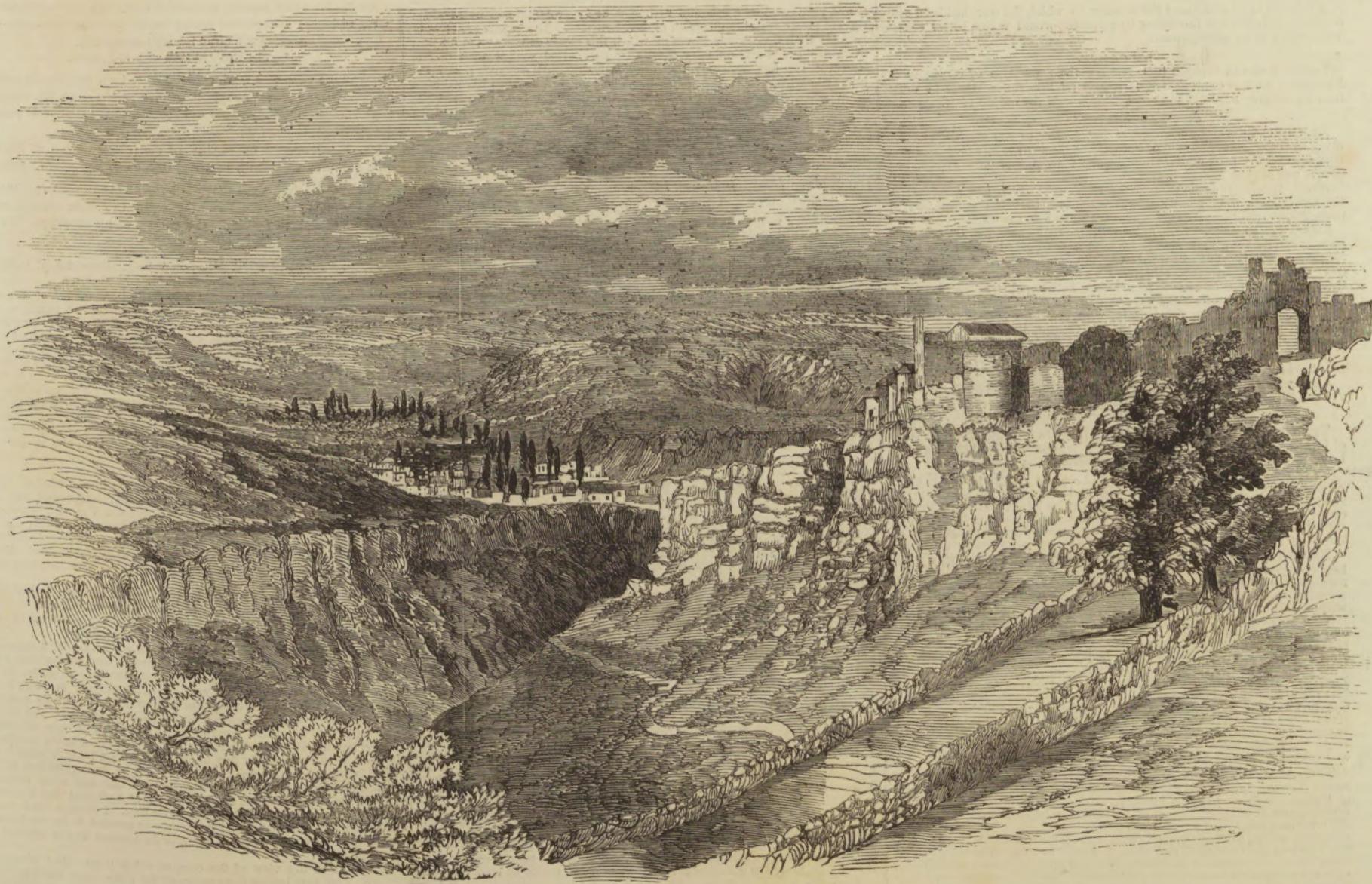
WE are indebted to the Sketch-book of Mr. Lawrence Oliphant for the accompanying Views. The Sketch of Simheropol is taken from a rising ground to the east of the town, near the road which enters it from Kertsch. The minarets on the left indicate the position of the Tartar quarter, built upon an overhanging cliff. The intervening valley is watered by the Salghir, an inconsiderable stream, crossed by a well-constructed bridge. A steep street leads from this into the European quarter of the town. On the west, high but not precipitous cliffs command the town as well as the road from Bagtcheserai: the fortifications of which we have recently heard as being in the process of construction in all probability now crown these heights. Simheropol is not generally garrisoned, but the barracks there afford abundant accommodation for troops. It is at present the head-quarters of the Russian army. There is a good road leading to Bagtcheserai, about twenty miles distant.

The second View is taken near the gate of the Old Jewish Fortress of Schonful Kelé, the ruined walls of which are visible upon the precipitous rocks on the right. The narrow valley formed by lofty cliffs leads to the town of Bagtcheserai, the minarets of which, about three miles off, are seen rising above the rich foliage amid which it is concealed. The main

road from Sebastopol to Simheropol does not pass through the town, but leaves it about a mile to the right. General Osten-Sacken, in command of the right wing of the Russian army, has made Bagtcheserai his head-quarters. The Djurouk Sou runs through the town and falls into the Katscha, the embouchure of which is barely discernible about fifteen miles distant. It is twenty-one miles from Sebastopol to Bagtcheserai, by a rough road.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN PRUSSIA.—According to the tables just published by the Berlin Statistical-office, the total number of births in the kingdom of Prussia, for the ten years 1844 and 1853 inclusive, amounted to 6,434,270, showing an annual average of 643,427 children of both sexes. The greatest number was in the year 1849 (691,562), the smallest (576,937) in the revolutionary year 1848. The number of deaths in the same ten years was on an average 484,112 persons annually, or in the proportion of 1 to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ of the population. The mortality appears to be greater in Prussia than in some other countries, for the proportion in England is 1 in 44; in France, 42; in Belgium, 39; and in Bavaria, 35. The annual number of marriages in Prussia amounted during the ten years to 142,510; or in the proportion of 1 to every 113 inhabitants—a result only exceeded in England (111) in the year 1853.

At Bucharest a newspaper called the *Tempul* has been established by some Wallachian citizens to combat the corrupt influence of the Russian party.



FORTRESS OF SCHONFUL-KELE.—SEASTOPOL IN THE DISTANCE.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 138.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

Lord LYNDHURST said that, considering the present state of affairs and the difficulties of the new Ministry, he thought he should best consult the interests of the country by not pressing the motion of which he had given notice; and he trusted that all parties in the House would unite heart and soul with the Government in their efforts to retrieve the affairs of the empire.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE, before the withdrawal of the motion, begged to suggest that the Ministry, by a certain date, should be prepared to furnish a statement of the condition of the army in the Crimea; as, by such a course, he believed much important time would be saved.

Earl GRANVILLE, in rising to move the adjournment of the House, said that it was an accident of the office which he held that he should be the mouthpiece of the present Ministry in this House, now that the First Lord of the Treasury had a seat in the House of Commons. The principles of the present Government were precisely identical with those of the late Administration. There was one paramount object which they should keep in view, and that was the active and energetic prosecution of the war. There was no cause for despondency—the resources of this country were unlimited, and the war should be prosecuted with the utmost vigour, until a safe and honourable peace should be procured. He concluded by moving that the House do adjourn until to-morrow week.

The Earl of DERBY, in a speech of considerable length, stated the reasons which induced him to decline the honour offered to him by her Majesty—viz., that of forming an Administration. Seeing that the press and the country, during the late Ministerial crisis, pointed to one man whose services should be enlisted as a leading member of the Government, he (the Earl of Derby), with the concurrence of her Majesty, waited upon Lord Palmerston with the view of effecting that object. Although the noble Viscount did not appear to him to be unwilling to aid him (Lord Derby) in the formation of a Government, he nevertheless declined to give him a definitive answer until he had consulted Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Sidney Herbert, whom he was also anxious to have as colleagues. Both of those right hon. gentlemen, as well as Viscount Palmerston, having declined to take office under him, he (Lord Derby) respectfully asked her Majesty to relieve him of the task with which he had been honoured. The present crisis was one too serious and too important for any but a strong Government to assume power; and, although he knew he could rely upon the cordial co-operation of a large and influential party in the House of Commons as well as upon that of some of the ablest and most experienced members of their Lordships' House, he, nevertheless, felt that the same combination of parties which had overthrown his last Government might be again employed to destroy any Ministry over which he had the honour to preside. Under such circumstances he thought he would be best discharging his duty to his country by declining office altogether, rather than by taking it to run the risk of plunging our public affairs into another state of embarrassment at a time when it was so necessary that there should be a union amongst all parties to carry on the present war to a speedy and successful result (Cheers).

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE entered into similar explanations as to the position he occupied during the late crisis.

After some observations from the Earl of MALMESBURY and other noble Lords, the subject dropped.

The Fisheries (North America) Bill passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

Mr. RICH asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he had any objection to lay upon the table the correspondence upon which he had grounded the statement that there were under arms in the Crimea 28,200 men, independent of the Navy Brigade and the Marines, and exclusive of the men in the hospital and at Balaklava?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that the statement was made from information not under his own control, but was supplied by the military authorities; and he should not like to make a statement of a more positive character. He did not say that there were 28,000 men under arms, but 28,000 men engaged in military duty before Sebastopol.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, that he would move that the House at its rising do adjourn until to-morrow, at twelve, to proceed with money bills. He would then move an adjournment until Friday week, on which day the orders of the day would stand as follows:—1. The Navy estimates; 2. the Army estimates; 3. Notice of Committee for Newspaper Stamps.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into a Committee of Supply.

The sum of £1,600,000 was voted on account of the Naval estimates.

The House then resumed.

Mr. WILLIAMS denounced the manner in which the war had been conducted, and hoped the in-coming Government would take a better course with regard to its management.

EDUCATION.

Lord J. RUSSELL brought in a bill for the promotion of education in England. He was anxious that it should be before the House in order that the country might be made acquainted with the nature of it.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

Mr. G. BUTT drew the attention of the House to the condition of the army in the Crimea, and said he had read in the newspapers that morning that the effective force of the army in the Crimea was only 12,000, and that it was rapidly perishing.

Mr. S. WORTLEY believed that the statements which had appeared in the newspapers were greatly exaggerated, and that the publication of those statements had given great encouragement to the enemy.

Lord J. RUSSELL did not wonder that honourable members were surprised that there should be such a difference between the statements popularly put forward on the one hand, and the official statements on the other. He believed the statement that there was a force of 28,000 men before Sebastopol was perfectly correct when the usual reductions were made. He might state that yesterday he saw a gentleman from the Crimea, who informed him that, although there was a good deal of sickness in the Crimea, the men who had good constitutions were ready for their duty. The noble Lord concluded with a high compliment upon Lord Raglan, who, he said, would not be injured by the attacks which had been made upon him by a rabid press.

After some further discussion, the House adjourned, shortly after six o'clock.

The statement that Lord John Russell has become the possessor of Lithwall-hall, near Christchurch, Hants, is incorrect: his Lordship has been in treaty for the property, but has declined the purchase.

THE BLOCKADE IN THE BLACK SEA.—The English and French Admirals have together agreed upon, and immediately notified, the blockade of the principal Russian ports of the Black Sea; and the necessary measures were at once taken by the Commanders of the Allied squadrons to render that blockade effective, even before the expiration of the delay granted to neutral vessels.

BRITISH PREMIERS.—The following list of Ministers who have held office from 1754 up to the present time—a period of 99 years and 10 months—shows an average duration to each Ministry of three years, eight months, and one day, the Marquis of Rockingham's being the shortest within the period:—Duke of Newcastle, April, 1754; Earl of Bute, May, 1762; George Grenville (father to Lord Grenville), April, 1763; Marquis of Rockingham, July, 1765; Duke of Grafton, Aug., 1766; Lord North (Earl of Guildford), Jan., 1770; Marquis of Rockingham, March, 1782; Earl of Shelburne, July, 1782; Duke of Portland, April, 1783; William Pitt, Dec., 1783; H. Addington (Lord Sidmouth), March, 1801; William Pitt, May, 1804; Lord Grenville, Jan., 1806; Duke of Portland, March, 1807; Spencer Perceval, June, 1810; Earl of Liverpool, June, 1812; George Canning, April, 1827; Viscount Goderich (Earl of Ripon), Aug., 1827; Duke of Wellington, Jan., 1828; Earl Grey, Nov., 1830; Lord Melbourne, Aug., 1834; Sir Robert Peel, Nov., 1834; Lord Melbourne, April, 1835; Sir Robert Peel, Sept., 1841; Lord John Russell, June, 1846; Earl of Derby, Feb., 1852; Earl of Aberdeen, Dec., 1852.

THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.—Some journals of the Russian party assert that the total force of the Russian army, consisting of the armies of General de Berg, Grappe, Siewers, Paskiewitsch, Gortschakov, Menschikoff, and Muriawoff, amounts to 695,000 men, and that in less than six months a reserve of 200,000 men will be organised. But it is known, also, that all the soldiers thus set down on paper are scattered about from the Baltic to the Caucasus, and that it would be very difficult to unite them for a great offensive operation. To this army of Russia Austria can oppose one which is scarcely less formidable. Her first corps d'armée consists of 67,600 men and 144 guns; her second of 121,000 men and 180 guns; her third of 286,000 men and 232 guns; her fourth of 119,400 men and 104 guns: in all 549,000 men and 686 guns. Her reserve in two months could be raised to 200,000 men, by comprising the frontier regiments.—*Augsburg Gazette.*

MUSIC.

THE AMATEUR MUSICAL SOCIETY, which, in the course of nine years, has gradually risen to much distinction among the artistic associations of London, had its first concert of this season at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Monday evening. Its members belong, for the most part, to the aristocracy. Nobles and honourables stand as rank and file in the muster-roll of the band, and handle their arms under the command of a general, himself an amateur, who, belonging to the middle class of society, holds his musical rank by the tenure of acknowledged talent. Though a young man, Mr. Henry Leslie has already gained an eminent position; and, having ample means to cultivate the art to which he is devoted, his genius, ardour, and industry promise to achieve for him a world-wide reputation. Till this season the musical director of the Amateur Society has always been a professional musician. It is only now that the Amateurs have placed an amateur at their head, and he has already shown himself worthy to wield the baton of command. In the ranks of the orchestra, too, the proportion of professional performers is much diminished. It is eighty strong; and among these there are only fifteen professors, chiefly wind instruments; the stringed instruments being almost entirely amateurs. This change, for a time, may be disadvantageous; for professional players, generally speaking, have greater precision and neatness of execution, and are more amenable to orchestral discipline, than amateurs. But there is no reason why an amateur, if he is hearty in the cause, may not acquire all that is necessary; and the members of this society seem well disposed to do so.

The concert of Monday evening included several great orchestral pieces: Weber's overture to the "Freischütz," Mendelssohn's "Italian Symphony" in A major, Mozart's pianoforte concerto in D minor, and Auber's overture to "Les Diamants de la Couronne." In their performance, the defects of want of precision and *aplomb*, and of imperfect execution, especially on the part of the violins, in rapid and difficult passages, were apparent; but, on the other hand, there was fire, an animation which made up for many mechanical deficiencies. This is often the case with amateur playing and singing, which is unjustly slighted. Persons who play or sing for love do so *con amore*; and, if they acquit themselves with tolerable skill, they communicate their own feelings to their listeners, and thus make a greater impression than could be made by much better executants not animated by the same spirit. Mozart's most delicious pianoforte concerto was performed by Miss Poland, a pupil of Herr Pauer. She played charmingly—with grace and feeling, a clear, liquid touch, and brilliant execution. The vocal portion of the concert consisted of several German part-songs of Mendelssohn, Reissiger, and Lachner, sung by the members of a society of German amateurs in the City, who practise under the direction of Herr Pauer. They sang without any instrumental accompaniment, and with a precision, accuracy of tune, and beauty of effect which reminded us of the famous Cologne chorus-singers, whose performances made such a sensation in our musical circles. The room was full of fashionable company, among whom were the Duke of Wellington (who appears to inherit his father's love of music), and a number of persons of distinction.

MRS. FANNY KEMBLE, after a long interval, has reappeared in public. She read "The Midsummer Night's Dream," at Exeter-hall, on Monday evening, to an overflowing audience; and the attraction of the entertainment was heightened by the performance of Mendelssohn's beautiful music, introduced in the same manner as if the play had been performed on the stage. We have always admired Mrs. Fanny Kemble as a reader, still more than as an actress. To read an entire play of Shakespeare demands a higher order of intellect than to perform any single part in it. It requires a profound study of the work, and a thorough comprehension not only of the design and scope of the whole, but of the idiosyncrasies and peculiarities of every individual character. It demands a force of imagination capable of conceiving, and a power of expression able to give form and substance to every creation of the poet's fancy, however sublime, however delicate, however grotesque, however ludicrous—from the Royal Dane to the *Gravedigger*, from the *Fairy Queen* to *Bottom the Weaver*. This comprehensive intellect has been an especial attribute of the Kemble family, and the last scion of that family is largely gifted with it. Her reading of "The Midsummer Night's Dream" was an entertainment such as she alone, at the present time, is capable of giving. It was, by turns, ethereal in its refinement, genial in its humanity, rich and even exuberant in its comic humour. No wonder that it was applauded with an enthusiasm which we believe would not be excited by any theatrical performance of the play which could be given.

On this occasion Mendelssohn's exquisite music was heard to full advantage for the first time in this country. It is as dramatic as it is beautiful. It was intended to accompany the performance of the play; and, unless heard in conjunction with the play, half of its beauties are lost. Till now it has been confined to our concerts; or, if some attempts have been made to perform it along with the play, it has always been marred by poverty of means and lameness of execution. On this occasion it was performed by a splendid orchestra, and a powerful and well-trained chorus, under the able direction of Mr. Benedict. The public are already familiar with the various pieces of which this music consists—the fanciful overture; the charming fairy chorus, "Ye spotted snakes with double tongue;" the gay *scherzo*; the deliciously-tranquill *notturno*; and the brilliant and festive *Wedding March*. Their musical beauties have always been appreciated, but it was now that the audience fully perceived the source of Mendelssohn's inspiration, and felt that his strains breathed the very spirit of Shakespeare.

JENNY LIND.—Accounts from Hamburg of the 30th January mention the arrival of Jenny Lind-Goldsmit, who with her husband gave a concert the night before at the Apollo Saloon, which was crowded to suffocation. A marked difference in her voice was, however, perceptible between now and those palmy days when she earned for herself the flattering epithet of "the Swedish Nightingale." She intended giving two more concerts; one of which, it was understood, was to be for the benefit of the poor families who suffered such losses from the memorable inundations on New-year's-day.

LOYSELL'S HYDROSTATIC PERCOLATOR.—M. Loysell has written to complain of some remarks in our "Notes of the Week" on the coffee made by his invention. He has forwarded to us testimonials from Robert Warrington, Esq., of Apothecaries' Hall; his Excellency Marshal Vaillant, Minister of War; and Mr. Grove, of the Crystal Palace—all highly commendatory of the Hydrostatic Percolator; and we are willing, therefore, to believe that the coffee of which our Correspondent complains must have been made by some other process than that invented by M. Loysell.

INTERNATIONAL LAW.—The Society of Arts has proposed that the subject of International Law shall be taken up at a congress composed of representatives from the various European nations meeting at the approaching Great Exhibition in Paris; and an interesting paper, containing remarks and suggestions as to the proposed congress, was read by Mr. Leone Levi at a special meeting of the society last week.

THE IRISH BENCH.—Baron Pennefather was called to the bar in 1795; Chief Justice Lefroy, 1797; Judge Torrens, 1798; Judge Perrin, 1806; Judge Moore, 1807; Judge Jackson, 1814; Judge Keatinge, 1813; Commissioner Macan, 1815; the Lord Chancellor, 1819; the Chief Baron, 1826; Chief Justice Monahan, 1828; the Attorney-General, 1819; the Solicitor-General, 1840; the Right Hon. J. Napier, 1831; Mr. White-side, 1807; Spencer Perceval, June, 1810; Earl of Liverpool, June, 1812; George Canning, April, 1827; Viscount Goderich (Earl of Ripon), Aug., 1827; Duke of Wellington, Jan., 1828; Earl Grey, Nov., 1830; Lord Melbourne, Aug., 1834; Sir Robert Peel, Nov., 1834; Lord John Russell, June, 1846; Earl of Derby, Feb., 1852; Earl of Aberdeen, Dec., 1852.

THE CAMP RAILWAY.—If the railway were terminated all would soon be distributed and set up in forty-eight hours. Unfortunately, the railway meets with unexpected obstacles. Between 600 and 800 Croats were engaged to work at it. Every needful measure was taken—they had their passports *en règle*, and had even received advances of money; but on the day fixed for the departure no one presented himself. It is impossible to conjecture the secret motive of this desertion *en masse*.—*Lettre from Constantinople*, Jan. 22.

A WARNING TO JESUIT AGITATORS.—The General of the Jesuits has addressed a circular, dated Rome, January 10, to the provincials of the Order, in which he instructs them how to act with respect to the different forms of political government. The company of the Jesuits being, he says, solely a religious order, and devoted exclusively to the salvation of men's souls, the various members of it are everywhere to act as faithful subjects of the Government under which they live, and in no case to interfere in political matters. In that manner only can they, the circular declares, conform to the principles on which the Order is founded.

A SHABBY CONGREGATION.—The Dean of St. Patrick expresses his sorrow over the "miserable smallness" of the Sunday-evening collections in the Cathedral (Dublin), which are devoted to the purposes of the "pairs"; and remarks that many of the wealthy people who attend the service are "too proud to give pence, and too sordid to give silver."

CHEEZY FOR THE SICK.—M. Soyer, of high culinary celebrity, has offered his services gratuitously, and will proceed direct to Seurat for short time, at his own personal expense, to regulate the culinary department, if the Government will honour him with their confidence, and grant him the full power of acting according to his own knowledge and experience in such matters.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

Who is to be the new Royal Academician? is the chief subject of conversation in artistic circles. Mr. John J. Chalon everybody admits was a very indifferent artist, and it is now particularly incumbent on the Academy that his vacancy should be filled up by a really able artist. If we look through the list of Associates we shall see that the Academy has some most excellent men to choose from. Painters are of course the most numerous. The twenty Associates include one architect (Mr. Sydney Smirke), two sculptors (Messrs. Foley and Weekes), and seventeen painters, of whom the oldest in point of election is Mr. Danby, and youngest Mr. Millais. Upon whom is the election likely to fall—on a sculptor, on an architect, or on a painter? Will they choose Mr. Danby or Mr. Patten, Mr. Hollins or Mr. Elmore, Mr. Sydney Cooper or Mr. E. M. Ward, Mr. Frost or Mr. Poole, Mr. Pickersgill or Mr. Thorburn, Mr. Egg or Mr. Hook, Mr. Boxall or Mr. E. W. Cooke, Mr. Frank Stone or Mr. Goodall; or will they elect the youngest on the list, and do homage to pre-Raphaelitism in the person of Mr. Millais? Shall we have an historical painter or a miniature painter, a painter of landscape or a painter of history? We will reply by a rumour now ripe, that the new Royal Academician will not be any one of the twenty we have named; that the Academy is about to render tardy justice to the noble art of engraving; and that Mr. Samuel Cousins, the distinguished mezzotinto engraver, will succeed Mr. Chalon, and be the first English engraver admitted to the full honours of the Academy. We shall, indeed, rejoice if the rumour is confirmed.

Our notice last week of the sister of William Wordsworth has afforded us an opportunity of hearing from the lips of a true poet an account of a visit which he made to Wordsworth. His story is in every way characteristic of the great author of "The Excursion;" and we have our friend's permission to tell it, but are not at liberty to mention his name:—

In the summer of 1846, when on a visit to the Lake District, I called upon Mr. Wordsworth, to convey a message from his daughter, then in London. He received me with a kindly shake of the hand. "I am told," said he, "that you write poetry; but I never read a line of your compositions, and I don't intend." I suppose I must have looked surprised, for he added, before I could find time to reply, "You must not think me rude in this, for I never read anybody's poetry but my own, and haven't done so for five-and-twenty years." Doubtless I smiled. "You may think this is vanity, but it is not; for I read my own poetry to correct its faults, and make it as good as I can." I endeavoured to change the subject by some general remarks on the beauty of the scenery, visible from his garden in which our interview had taken place. "What is the name of that mountain?" I inquired. "God bless me!" he said; "Have you not read *my* poems? Why, that's Nab-Scar. There are frequent allusions to it in my writings. Don't you remember the lines?" and he repeated in a clear, distinct voice a well-known passage from "The Excursion." The name of Southey having been accidentally mentioned, I inquired as a matter of literary history whether, as was commonly believed, he had impaired his health and his intellect by too much mental exertion, and thus brought on that comparative darkness of mind which clouded the last months of his life. "By no means," said Wordsworth; "Southey was a most methodical worker. He systematised his time. He was never confused or in a hurry, and got through a deal of labour with an amount of ease and comfort which your hurry-scurry kind of people can neither accomplish nor understand. The truth is—at least I think so—that his mind was thrown off its balance by the death of his first wife, and never afterwards wholly recovered itself." I reminded him at this point that the late Mr. Laman Blanchard, whose sad story was then fresh in the recollection of the public, had been reduced to a state of insanity by a similar bereavement. From that moment my name seemed to fade away from Mr. Wordsworth's recollection, and he always addressed me during the remainder of our interview as Mr. Laman Blanchard. His sister, Miss Wordsworth, was wheeled into the garden in a little garden-carriage, or chair, impelled by Mrs. Wordsworth. I wore on my head a Glengarry travelling-cap, with a sprig of heather; and Miss Wordsworth no sooner caught sight of me than she exclaimed in a shrill voice, "Who's that man, brother?" "Oh! nobody, my dear," he replied. "It's only Mr. Laman Blanchard." I gently hinted my right name. "It's all the same to her, poor thing!" he rejoined. He would possibly have added more; but the unfortunate lady interrupted him by commencing to sing the well-known Scotch song:—

A Highland lad my love was born,
The Lowland laws he held in scorn.

She sang one verse with much correctness, and was commencing another when Mr. Wordsworth led me away. "This is a painful scene, Mr. Blanchard," he said; "let us go into my room, and I will read you some more passages from my poems about Nab-Scar."

Mr. Wordsworth's impression of the primary cause of Southey's insanity is now, we believe, admitted by all who knew him intimately.

We have received from the proprietor of the aleged unpublished novel by Sir Walter Scott the following reply to certain remarks which we thought proper to make on the subject of his discovery. We print his letter in full, that he may tell his own story:—

Reply of M. E. de Saint Maurice Cabany, Proprietor of "Moredun," to the Attacks of the British Press.

On the 25th November, 1854, I published an account of the extraordinary manner in which the manuscript of a tale or romance, in three volumes, entitled "Moredun, a Tale of the 1210," came into my hands, accompanied by a letter of most singular interest

been written by Sir Walter Scott. I shall accompany the copy sent to such publishers with some papers of most singular interest in themselves, but which are doubly so from being found in the same box with the MS. of "Moredun."

They are forty-three in number, and relate entirely to the period of the *Hundred Days* and the *Restoration* (1814, 1815, 1816). These papers would have been of such immense value to the author of the "Life of Napoleon," that I think all who examine them will go along with me in considering them a collection, or the commencement of a collection, intended for presentation as an expression of thanks to the author of "Moredun." My attention was so entirely engrossed by that work that I did not at first give them the examination they were entitled to.

In the course of that examination, too, some pages of MS. in English were found which supply several *lacunas* in "Moredun," which had greatly puzzled those who were translating it for me into French. Among them is the following, without heading or title, evidently intended as an introduction to the work:—

"I have somewhere met with the remark that 'Dante's only object is to interest.' Such has been my aim in that to which I have on that account given the name of a tale rather than claim for it the title of a romance: and if, as has been said of his poetry, it can be said of this tale that the interest never flags, my main object, besides that of turning to it as a recreation, will have been gained. If any apology be necessary for the neglect of the unities of time and place in such a narrative, I can quote the authority of Dr. Johnson, who justifies the want of them in much higher productions. I may likewise quote the same illustrious writer for a justification of many departures from the rules of criticism, and say with him 'that there is always an appeal open from criticism to nature.'"

The paper seems to be of English manufacture, and bears in the water-mark the name of "Horn," with the date "1817."

All the facts relative to the MS. of "Moredun," known to myself, are now before the world. I do not intend to take any special notice of the articles—I cannot call them criticisms—of the English press, having seen only but a small portion of them—few of their authors or publishers having had the fairness or politeness to send me a copy of the journals in which they appeared, although the literary treaty lately signed between the two countries would have led one naturally to expect some little courtesy, if not justice, on the part of the English journalists towards the director of a literary society in France who gave his name and address along with his statements; but whilst one doubtless says that Scott wrote all his novels himself, another that he always employed an amanuensis, a third that that amanuensis had a name full of L's, and a fourth that they were not L's but G's, I may safely leave them to demolish each other. The latest fiction, however, I must not pass unnoticed. It is therein alleged, as a suspicious circumstance, that the discovery of "Moredun" was not made known until after the death of Mr. Lockhart. I reply—my notice of the discovery was lodged with the Minister of the Interior, in Paris, on the 24th November, and was published here and in London, in the *Sun* newspaper, on the 29th—the day on which Mr. Lockhart died in Scotland. The telegraph does wonders, but it could scarcely have told in Paris on the 24th what happened at Abbotsford on the 29th. *Ab uno disce omnes.*

Le Directeur-Général de la Société des Archivistes de France.

This letter we have shown to the former amanuensis and librarian of Sir W. Scott, who observes in reply:—

The name "full of L's" was, I suppose, William Laidlaw or John Bainbridge; the G's must refer to "your humble servant," in whose name there are certainly three—one more than in that of "MM. Gourdon de Genuillac, Secrétaire Perpetuel" of the Société des Archivistes. It is curious enough that a Gourdon should be connected with "Moredun." I say a Gourdon, for it is well known that my clan originated in a branch of the Gourdons who came over with the Conqueror, and emigrated to the south of Scotland. I am sorry that M. Cabany does not intend sending us a facsimile of that which we are so desirous of seeing—not the letter signed "W. S.," which may or may not be a copy, but a page of the *tale itself*, which must be the original MS., if we are to believe M. Cabany's account of the purpose it was intended to serve. And I consider myself quite competent to determine the authenticity of the MS., having transcribed from Scott's autograph thirty-two volumes of the novels and tales, and two volumes of "The Life of Napoleon;" the necessity for the transcription having been rendered unnecessary after the second volume by Scott's avowal of the authorship.

GEO. HUNTLY GORDON.

I have omitted to observe how extremely improbable it is that Scott composed a story in three volumes which we never heard of before, during or after 1817 (the date of the paper); as he produced more works from that year till 1827 than in any ten preceding years of his life. It is quite incredible that he should have had time for "three volumes" more! Nor can I believe that he wrote a note to Wm. Spencer on paper "bearing the water-mark of the first Empire, having the name of Napoleon I., surrounded by his titles"—in Paris, in 1826, when the name of Napoleon was proscribed; and it was considered a sort of high treason to be in possession of his effigy!

Will M. Cabany comply with Mr. Gordon's very proper request?

A VERY remarkable calculating-machine has lately arrived in London, which not only calculates series with four differences up to fifteen ciphers, but at the same time prints the results on tables up to eight ciphers. The machine has been constructed by M. Scheutz, of Stockholm, who has devoted eighteen years to the undertaking.

AN AMERICAN OPINION ON THE WAR.—The forces now developed and displayed by Russia are commensurate with her projects, and irrefragable testimony of their nature and extent. To any thinking man they suggest this reflection—"Had Russia not been in error respecting France and England, had she not consequently mistaken her time for making her grand coup, where should Europe be now? Under the heel of the Cossack. Never was war more opportune or more necessary."—*New York Courier and Enquirer.*

A FALSE ALARM.—A good deal of alarm was created in the neighbourhood of Navar during the past week, in consequence of a report having gone abroad that the branch of the Ulster Bank in that town had stopped payment. The demands for gold, in consequence, were uncommonly brisk. People came in from all sides with the notes, to have them changed for gold or silver, as the traders and shopkeepers refused to take them. The bank was kept open till seven o'clock each evening, in order to give all who had any of their notes an opportunity of changing them.

FORSTER'S POCKET PEERAGE.—(Fifth Year.)—This ably-compiled and economical volume has been carefully revised throughout. In his preface Mr. Forster feelingly refers to "a painful but interesting feature in the notices of the casualties and glorious deaths which have occurred amongst the seigns of some of our most distinguished houses, whilst fighting their country's battles on the inhospitable shores of the Crimea." On this, as well as other points, the intelligence has been brought down to the latest possible date; for which purpose Mr. Forster's compact volume possesses an advantage, and is proportionally entitled to public preference.

INTERESTING ANECDOTE OF THE QUEEN.—A letter has been addressed by Lord Roden to the Rev. D. A. Doudney, of Bonmahon, relative to Lieut.-Col. Jocelyn, son of the noble Earl, and now with the Army in the Crimea. In the letter, which appears in a religious periodical conducted by Mr. Doudney, Lord Roden mentions that his son was in the battles of Alma and Inkerman, and escaped unhurt. Although undergoing the greatest hardships, never having taken off his clothes since the 14th September, and never having slept in a house for nearly nine months, he had not suffered from any illness, although surrounded by sickness. The *Morning Post*, after quoting a portion of Lord Roden's letter regarding his son, says:—"In connection with this young and gallant officer, we are enabled to mention an incident which reflects the highest credit on the Queen, and which will, we are sure, afford the greatest gratification to all her subjects. It is well known that Lady Gainsborough, the sister of Lieut.-Col. Jocelyn, is one of her Majesty's greatest favourites at Court, and is more in her society, perhaps, than any other of England's noble daughters. When the despatches giving the details of the battle of Inkerman and the list of killed and wounded arrived at the War-office, a telegraphic despatch was forwarded to her Majesty at Windsor, announcing the fact, and adding that they would be immediately sent to her. Lady Gainsborough was with her Majesty at the time, and, as might be expected, was in a state of intense anxiety to learn what had been the fate of her brother, at one time hoping the best, and at others, knowing how enormous our losses were, fearing the worst. Her Majesty, with a judgment and feeling to which it would be impossible to do justice, soon after withdrew from the apartment in which she and Lady Gainsborough had been, and calling the servant, whose duty it was to deliver the despatches from the War-office into her hands, desired him not to bring them into the usual room if Lady Gainsborough were present, but to put them into an adjoining apartment, and unobserved intimate to her Majesty that they had arrived. Lady Gainsborough was with her Majesty when the despatches were received, and they were put into another room in accordance with the Queen's wishes. Her Majesty hurried away to the room in which the despatches were left, snatched them up, opened them, and eagerly ran her eye over the list of killed and wounded officers in Lieut.-Colonel Jocelyn's regiment. Finding that he had escaped—not being even wounded—her Majesty rushed into the apartment where Lady Gainsborough was, and forgetting for the moment the Queen in the woman, and setting the rules of Court etiquette at nought, threw her arms around Lady Gainsborough's neck, and exclaimed with an emphasis which cannot be described—'He's safe! he's safe!'

The railway calls for the month of February of the present year amount to 1,769,832, of which £1,567,332 is on account of foreign companies.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

MELICUS.—To comprehend the ingenuity of the Problem by Ali Shatranji, given by Professor Forbes in our last number, it is necessary to have a clear idea of the difference between the moves and powers of the pieces in the Oriental game, and their moves and powers in our game. In Oriental Chess, the King, the Rook, the Knight, and the Pawn moved and captured precisely as they do with us, with the exception that in the East there was no castling, and a Pawn could never make but one step forward. With these four pieces, then, there is no difficulty. Now, clear your chess-board and place the White Queen, say, on her 4th square, and you will soon understand the *in casu dispositio* between her powers in the ancient and the modern game. With us, but as you know, in this position she can pretty well sweep the whole board; but, in the old game, her power, both for moving and for capturing, although, was limited to *one square* diagonally, in each direction from the square where she stood. In other words, she could, in the old game, capture only her King's 3rd and 5th, and her Bishop's 3rd and 5th squares, so that the adverse King or any other piece, might be played to any other square, next to her, or away from her, without danger. Next place a Bishop on the same square. Well, in our game, a Bishop so placed commands the whole rank of squares, in a diagonal course, from the Queen's square to the King's Rook's 5th, and from the King's Kt to the Q Rook's 2nd. In the ancient game, he commanded only the *third square* diagonally in each direction; that is to say, he could now move to or capture a piece on his K B 2nd, K B 6th, Q Kt 2nd, and Q Kt 6th; and, to reach either of these squares, he leapt over any piece intervening. For example, if the adverse King stood at his 4th, he would not be in check of your Bishop, and to reach the K B 6th you would leap your Bishop over him. Practise the moves of the Queen and Bishop here described, first with a board divested of other pieces, and then with a number of pieces on it, for an hour, and you will be able to appreciate some of the beauties in the Chess tactics of the East.

A. K. Lambeth.—It shall have attention.

DEREVON.—Your solution of the clever Problem by D'Orville given in our notices to Correspondents is quite correct; and, strange to say, the only one we received.

ANDY, J. B., of Bridport; A. F.—They are now undergoing examination.

TYR, Kent.—Our solution of No. 371 is quite right, and yours all wrong. If Black take the Bishop as you suggest, White has merely to move his King to Q B 4th, and mate next move with the K Pawn.

J. M., of Sherburn.—1. The position of the men in Enigma 909 is correct. 2. Begin by playing J B to Q 6th.

VON H. D. L., Brussels.—Cosio was the writer meant. We do not remember to have seen the move in any earlier author.

A. H. P., Stevenage.—If Black take the Bishop so much the worse for him. He will then be mated more speedily.

C. W.—We have not space to print the Indian problem this week.

* * * We are compelled to defer, for the most part, our Notices to Correspondents on Chess.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS.—No. 571, by Tweedside, Dorset; S. J., Falmouth, Barry, J. A. M., Fakenham, Medius, Vernon, are correct.

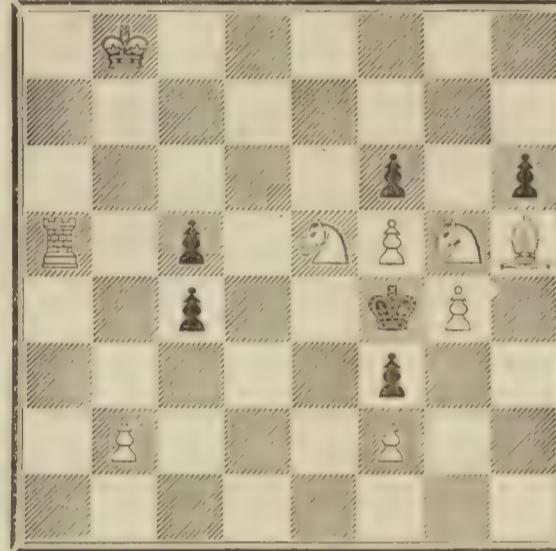
SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 572, by Chudleigh, E. J. L., Islington, P. P., Doreyton, T. J., Hanworth, J. Stonehouse, Brutus, A. Z., J. A. M., Fakenham, F. J. Norwich, E. H., Dorset, W. C. C., Streatham, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF ENIGMAS by J. M. of Sherburn, J. Stonehouse, J. A. M., Fakenham, R. T., Munro, Arden, Roberto, W. F., Omer Pacha, Mrs. Caudle, Doreyton, are correct. All others are wrong.

PROBLEM N. 573.

By Mr. HENRY TURTON.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White, playing first, to mate in five moves.

A CHESS MANU-SCRIPT.

At the present moment, when the attention of amateurs is being directed towards the records of the play of the great masters in olden times, the following account of a MS. collection of ancient games, in the possession of M. Doazan, a zealous and highly-respected member of the *Cercle des Echecs* in Paris, will not be without interest. The description, which we have taken the liberty to abridge considerably, is by M. D. himself, and appeared originally in the French *Chess Magazine*:

"For many years I gave a sort of general commission to a respectable librarian to buy for me at the book-sales all works he met with which treated of Chess; with little success, however, for a long time—for my *employé*, having been engrossed some fifty years in the purchase and sale of Greek and Latin authors, esteemed no work precious except Ernesti's 'Homer,' Kuster's 'Aristophanes,' the 'Virgil' of Heyne, the Bible of Marillier, or other ancient books *quidam farina*. His customary reply to my remonstrances at his ill success in meeting with what I wanted was, 'But, sir, would you give five and twenty francs for a poor pamphlet which might be picked up on the quays for ten sous?' I convinced him at length that he was not likely to find the miserable pamphlets I desired on the book-stalls of the quays, but must seek for them in other quarters, and be content to pay for them the market price. And one day with much exultation he brought me a Chess-book, of which the title, portentously long, commenced thus: 'La Supériorité aux Echecs, mise à la Portée de tout le Monde, et particulièrement des Dames quie, &c.' If the good man had taken time to read this formidable title to the end, he would have found these words:—'Avec un volume de Planches pour l'explication des Coups, &c.' This volume of plates, without which the first portion of the treatise is valueless, my bookseller had not obtained. I refrained, however, from reproaching him; on the contrary, I thanked him for his attention, and encouraged him to further researches. The result was that in a few days he again appeared before me, and on this occasion with a purchase, the quality of which I was delighted with, and shall now describe. It was an Italian MS. of the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century, containing a collection of games, or openings of games, by the most skilful players of the sixteenth century, arranged by some amateur, who evidently intended to obtain a complete series.

"The following are the contents:—Fifty-six Games or Openings, by Giulio Cesare Polonio; Nineteen of Giovanni Domenico; Thirty-five by Giovanni Leonardo; Four of Avalos; Two of Busnardo; Two of Scovara; One of Don Antonio; Three Ends of Games, Anonymous; Three Dots, from Damiano. The work is in Five Divisions:—The First comprises the King's Bishop's and King's Knight's Opening; the Second, Games of Defence against the Move; the Third, King's Gambits Accepted and Refused.

"In the foregoing list it will be observed that there is no mention of the Queen's Gambit, which doubtless had not at that period been invented. Greco, who lived long afterwards, gives in his work three games at the Queen's Gambit, with variations. Whether the honour of this invention is, as his French translator affirms, due to him, I cannot say." If this opening were unknown to the contemporaries of Leonardo and Paolo Boi, of Syracuse, we must admit that its discovery evinces a marked progress in the theory of the game. To convince ourselves of this it is necessary only to examine the games between La Bourdonnais and McDonnell, where the Queen's Gambit rank among the most beautiful of the parties. The Fourth Division presents us with forty-two games of attack and defence, all connected with our ordinary openings of the present day. In the Fifth we meet only with six end games. The book is a compilation; but a compilation not without value if it have preserved for us some precious fragments of masters whose works and traditions are long passed away, and whose names even for the most part seem to be forgotten.

"The compiler of the present MS., unfortunately, employed a very incorrect transcriber, for the work abounds with errors, not only of orthography, which are unimportant, but with gross faults, which destroy the sense, and render several passages quite unintelligible. For example, at the end of a paragraph we meet with these words:—'This game was played in Spain, by Il Clerico and Giovanni Leonardo, very skilful players.' Now, the game to which they refer is incomprehensible, through some blunders, which is deeply to be regretted, since it is not certain that the Chess magnates of that epoch have ever been surpassed. The combinations of our admirable game have subsequently been infinitely multiplied, and we have acquired more science, but perhaps without any increase of genius.

"The players of the sixteenth century printed very few books upon Chess, but they attached too much importance to their combats and their studies not to preserve them. I am convinced, therefore, that a careful search in the

monastic libraries of Spain and Italy would be rewarded by the discovery of many priceless treatises on the science.

"Of the present MS. the Second Division is, perhaps, the most curious. It contains a number of openings, by the celebrated Leonardo, in which the defence is shown how to regain the move.

"From these we take the following, which affords one or two interesting positions:—

BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.
1. E to K 4th	P to K 4th	8. P to Q 3rd (b)	P takes Kt
2. Kt to K B 3rd	P to K B 4th	9. Q takes R	Kt takes K B P (ch)
3. Kt takes K P	Q to K 2nd	10. K to Q 2nd	Q to K Kt 5th
4. Q to K R 5th (ch)	P to K Kt 3rd	11. Q to K 5th (ch)	K to B 2nd
5. Kt takes Kt (P)	Q takes K P (ch)	12. K B to K 2nd	Q to K Kt 4th (ch)
6. K to Q sq (a)	Kt to K B 3rd	13. K to Q B 3rd	Q to K R 5th
7. Q to K R 4th	Kt to K Kt 5th		

"White now menaces mate with his Queen at her Kt 5th, and to win the al-verse Queen by playing K B to K Kt 2nd. Black must, therefore, at least lose his K Rook.

(Notes by the Editor.)

(a) This is not the best move. Black should interpose his Bishop at King's 2nd, in which case the game proceeds as follows:—

6. K B to 2nd	Kt to K B 3rd	8. P to Q 3rd	Q to Q B 3rd
7. Q to K R 3rd	Kt to K Kt 5th	9. Kt takes K B	It takes Kt

And Black has the better game.

(b) In his notes to this opening M. M. Auvant recommends P to K B 3rd as preferable. We doubt, however, very much whether that move would benefit him much. For suppose—

8.



SCENE FROM "ROMEO AND JULIET," AT THE HAYMARKET THEATRE.

man whom *Pride* had defrauded. Mr. Heriot entrusts a gold watch, set with diamonds, to *Bernard's* care, concerning which *Janet*, suspicious of the supposed *Sergeant Grey's* honesty, is exceedingly anxious. Being a somnambulist, this anxiety haunts her slumbers; and, in her sleep-walking, she attempts to transfer the watch from a table-drawer to a safer cabinet. But the criminal of the drama is on the spot, and abstracts the watch from the case during the attempted transfer, so that, when the former is missed, *Janet's* possession of the latter becomes evidence against her. The poor girl is tried and convicted at the Old Bailey; when *Pride*, discovering that she is his own daughter, shoots himself, and, by his dying confession, clears the prisoner. Mr. Keeley has an amusing part in *Dicky Trotter*, whose colloquy with the numerous kitchen clocks, which he has marred rather than mended—with his calculations about the mean time, and their different characteristics—suffices to send him into a profound sleep at the moment of the robbery. His behaviour in court as a witness, because he was asleep in the apartment all

the while, provoked many a laugh. That a production so various in interest, and so lifelike in character, should be successful was natural, and, acted with so much talent, indeed inevitable. Mr. Webster has, moreover, earned our most unequivocal testimony to his extraordinary histrionic genius, in his successful assumption of the peculiar attributes that distinguish the hero of this new dramatic romance.

"ROMEO AND JULIET" AT THE HAYMARKET THEATRE.

THE performance of *Romeo* by Miss Cushman is one that possesses peculiar characteristics, and in them corresponding advantages. For force and passion it exceeds that of any male performer, and yet avoids exaggeration; because the utmost vehemence of action that an actress of taste can throw into the situations is necessarily less robust than that of an actor.

The latter must modify and suppress: Miss Cushman is enabled to expand and display the signs of emotion. One of the most affecting scenes in this, the greatest love-play in the world, is the parting one between the lovers. The necessity of the step overcomes all scruples; but that necessity is better made out in Arthur Brooke's poem than in Shakespeare's tragedy. This scene, which has been more than once pictorially illustrated, derives new interest from the successful *début* of a new *Juliet*. Miss Swanborough, though deficient in physical force, has much feeling and grace; and when she becomes more fully acquainted with the requirements of the stage in general, and of this highly-impassioned character in particular, she will doubtless make a good actress. It has been justly said by histrionic professors that no actress, however talented, can know how *Juliet* should be performed until she is too old to impersonate the part. We should recollect and make allowance for the difficulty that this authority implies, in judging of the claims of a new actress in Shakespeare's great love-heroine.



SCENE FROM THE NEW DRAMA, "JANET PRIDE," AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE.



HUNTING IN THE HOLIDAYS.—DRAWN BY JOHN LEECH.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

HUNTING IN THE HOLIDAYS.

MOODY THE HUNTSMAN *loquitur.*

"Hold 'ard, gentlemen, hold 'ard!" Darn me, but it's enough to drive a fellow crazy!
That chap in a wide-awake has nigh rid over MERRY LASS and DAISY!
I wish there warn't no holidays for boys, leastways in the hunting season,
'Cos they're always a larking and spoiling the sport, and that's a very good and sufficient reason.

That cock-sparrow there on Mr. Thimgumy's mare h'eaded the fox, and, on course, the hounds chopp'd him.

Had I been his highly respectable parent I'd a cried ' Ware Fox!' and jolly well whopp'd him.

I'm very fond of boys, and would forgive 'em shirking school, or breaking windows, or playing peg-top on a mahogany table:

But when one's out here, in one's natural element, as one may say, and they gets in the way, darn me, if I'm able!

It's quite right to enter 'em to hounds, 'cos ' the Noble Sport ' is the pride of the British nation,

But cub-hunting, which is Hunting Made Easy, ought to be the time when boys has their vacation.

"Hark to Ann-dromackey!" (Bluecoat boy: "Hark to An"—) "Stop your gab, sir! What do you mean by hollering on the hounds?

"Ware, old Dido! You young yellowhammer, you're not worth so many pence as she is worth pounds."

There! the hounds have thrown up! And who's to make a cast, I should like to know, with this tail of boys

A riding about like wild Indians or March hares, a shouting and making a deuce of a noise?

And the Master takes it as cool as a cucumber; and, when I grumble, he says—

"O never mind, McCody; it's only at holiday time, and they'll all know better one of these days."

"Hark to Dido!" There goes Pug, pointing to Charnwood Gorse—a good ten-mile burst at least!

"Hark for 'ard! Too! too!" There'll be bellows to mend with the ponies, but good entertainment for man and beast!

NATIONAL SPORTS.

The frost seemed so completely set in last week that trainers began to despair of ever getting their horses ready for their spring engagements; and one lot was removed to the sea-side with a view to being "prepared" on the sands. Towards the close of it these gloomy forebodings seemed likely to prove ill-founded. The "sheeted regiments" were once more beginning to appear on their favourite parades, and the slipper and the huntsman at their posts; but a second edition of winter set in on Wednesday last, and blighted all their hopes. Hence the prospects of the 1855 racing season, which opens next week, are the reverse of promising. Derby has a steeplechase-day on Tuesday. Its Selling Chase has five entries, and its Selling Hurdle Race seven acceptances out of eleven; while sixteen out of twenty-six have accepted in its principal steeplechase. Peter Simple, 11st, heads the list, and Maria Day, 9th, is sixth on it. The *I Zingari* of the turf will travel from thence to Lincoln, which has a mixed programme of steeple chasing and flat racing for them on Wednesday and Thursday. Benham's, whose dam was once a great favourite in those parts, is the principal name in the Trial Stakes. Forty out of fifty-four have accepted in the Liverpool Steeplechase, among whom Bourton, with 12th, 6lbs., has boldly said "Content," and certainly he seemed, under Tasker's magnificent handling, to win with quite 10lbs. to spare last year. Miss Mowbray, 11th, 6lbs., also stays in, and John Scott is preparing her as carefully as a St. Leger crack.

The Coursing meetings are now broadcast throughout the week. Newmarket, open, is fixed for Monday, &c.; Aston (Cheshire), Newport (Salop), and Lee Bridge (Salop), for Tuesday; Bigray Champion for Tuesday, &c.; Limerick and Baldock Club for Wednesday and Thursday; and Ampthill and Bryn-y-pys for Friday. The celebrated dog Barradas is said to have a purchaser, at a pretty strong price.

None of the great mares, except L'hyrne and Alice Hawthorne, have as yet had foals, but the flapper (the dam of Graculus Escutens) has just had a colt to Chanticleer, who is still at the Hawclife paddocks along with Flying Dutchman, whose first batch of two-year-olds will appear this season. Burgundy has been purchased by a Mr. Daykin; and Franklin, one of the most promising young horses Lord Clifden ever had, has left the turf, on which his legs failed him early, and gone to join Surplice at Doncaster, where three seasons since he ran such a terrific and victorious race with Longlow. Epirus has quitted the stud; but he leaves a splendid representative in his son Pyrrhus the First, who combines all the stoutness of defence with the speed of Langar, and has communicated them both, in no ordinary degree, to his daughter Virago. Arnold is in future to train Mr. Saxon's horses instead of Abraham; and Dockray has arrived at Newmarket and taken the charge of Messrs. Payne and Greville's horses from Nat, who has looked after them at the Palace Stables since the Houghton Meeting.

Sporting literature is not very ripe, but "Scrutator's" work on horses and hounds has quite the call at present. A Mr. Goodwin has also published some remarks on the strange running of Acrobat, a painful subject, which hardly needed reviving at this distance of time. The *Sporting Magazine* has a very characteristic likeness of Virago, from a sketch by Mr. Harry Hall, who has done the illustrious "roach-back" most ample justice. One of the articles contains an amusing account of "Crutch Robinson's" political colloquy with Lord Derby, as well as some recollections of the nonagenarian Yorkshireman, Michael Brunton, who was so fond of betting that during his three Richmond Mayoralities he always clenched a legal dispute by offering to bet his brother magistrates "six to four" he was right. The "Sam Chifney Recollections" are also continued through the fourth chapter, which is entirely devoted to the racing career of George IV., and contains a great number of anecdotes and traits which seem to have been dug up for the first time. Of his money habits the writer observes—"He was most liberal with money, so long as he did not see it. He would sign away cheques to any amount, but if he had a fifty-pound note in his pocket it was a bitter pang to him to spend five pounds of it."

A strong attempt is about to be made to introduce salmon into the Australian rivers, and a gentleman has offered to give half of a £1000 prize, if the Australian Government will give the other, to any one who will successfully rear them there. In the Dee great pains is at present taken with salmon spawn, and it is thought that about 107,000 young fish will be reared this spring.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT (ENGLAND AND BELGIUM).—The copy of a convention between Her Majesty and the King of the Belgians for the establishment of international copyright, signed in London on the 12th day of August, 1854, and ratified on the 24th January, has been published.

THE SPANISH MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH.—M. Madoz, the new Spanish Finance Minister, has proposed to alienate the property of the Church held in mortmain. The Spanish Bishops are furious, and the Bishop of Cadiz has just addressed an energetic protest against the measure to the Cortes. His episcopal brother of Barcelona, a Catalan and a *liberal* Carlist, has just published in his journal a fiery article, in which he stigmatizes the present Government of Spain as a band of robbers—the breakers of all laws, human and divine. The Government has ordered him off to a little town in Andalusia, which has been appointed as his residence. The Bishop has refused to go, and cannot be found.

HOW THEY MANAGE IN THE TRENCHES.—When we are in the trenches, if it be our turn to be in the first parallel, i.e., farthest from the *citadelle*, we walk about as much as possible to keep ourselves warm, and if a shot comes, which often is the case, we turn our heads to let the recoil pass over us. In the second parallel we walk about as in the first, but almost double; and in the third, if you so much as show your little finger above the parapet, you find twenty rifle bullets whizzing about it immediately. We take some salt pork and biscuit and a bottle of water with us, and, if we are in the first parallel, our servants bring us some hot coffee about eight o'clock.—*Letter from the Camp.*

A TIMELY WARNING FOR LORD PANMURE.—This is about the time when new tents and suitable clothing for summer should be provided. We may look for a summer-like opening early in April. Our men suffer enough from cold and wind;—there is no reason why they should contend, unprotected and overclad, against the blaze of a Crimean summer sun.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

Notwithstanding the Ministerial interregnum, and the unfavourable reports which have come to hand from the manufacturing districts on the subject of trade, the value of nearly all National Securities has not been depreciated to any extent. The supply of stock in the hands of the jobbers is by no means large, and any increase in it cannot be expected whilst the public continue to purchase so freely as of late. Much surprise has been expressed at the present high range in Consols; but it must not be forgotten that, as yet, no sums have been withdrawn from the Stock Exchange in the shape of loans on English account; the Government balance in the Bank of England is still good, and the revenue is flourishing. In addition to all this, money for commercial purposes is abundant, and not likely to become dearer.

Some rather extensive movements have taken place in bullion. The imports have exceeded £200,000, chiefly from the West Indies and Mexico, including £15,000 from New York. The resumption of specie imports from America is a most favourable feature; but some time must of necessity elapse ere they will be sufficiently large to have much influence upon the supply in the Bank of England. The total exports have been nearly £1,000,000, mostly to India.

The Cotton Market on Monday was tolerably firm, and prices had an upward tendency. The Three per Cent., for the market, marked 91 1/2; the Three per Cent. R. Bond, 91 1/2; the New Three per Cent., 91 1/2; and Consols for Account, 91 1/2 up to 91 1/4. Bank Stock was 211 to 212; India Stock, 222; Long Annuities, 4 5-16; India Bonds, 12s. to 18s.; Exchequer-bills, 9s. to 9s. prem.; Exchequer-bonds, 9s. 1/2. On Tuesday great inactivity prevailed in the market, and the quotations were in shade lower. The Three per Cent. Reduced were 91 1/2; the Three per Cent. Consols, 91 1/2; the New Three per Cents, 92 1/2 to 92; the New Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 77 to 78; Consols for Account, 91 1/2 to 91 1/4; Long Annuities, 1859, 4s.; India Bonds were 15s.; Exchequer-bills, 9s. prem.; Exchequer-bonds, 9s. 1/2; Bank Stock, 211 to 212.

The transactions on the following day were not to say extensive, yet prices were steadily supported. The Three per Cents Reduced were 91 1/2; the Three per Cent. Consols, 91 1/2; the New Three per Cents, 91 1/2 to 92; Long Annuities, 4 5-16; India Stock, 223 to 224; Bank Stock, 212 to 213; Exchequer Bills, 9s. to 9s. prem.; Ditto Bonds, 99 1/2. Funds were flatter on Thursday, owing to the settlement of the account. The "Contango" was about 1/4 per cent. Consols were 91 1/2 to 92; the Three per Cent. Reduced, 91 1/2 to 91 1/4; and the New Three per Cents, 91 1/2 to 92; Exchequer Bills, 9s. to 9s.; and India Bonds, 12s. prem.

The market for foreign bonds has been dull, yet very little change has taken place in prices. Grenada Deferred have marked 5s.; Mexican Three per Cents, 21; Russian Five per Cents, 100 to 102; Ditto, Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 89; Spanish Three per Cents, 37; Ditto, Passive 4; Ditto, New Deferred, 17; Turkish Six per Cents, 76; Belgian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 92; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 62 1/2; Ditto, Four per Cents, 93; Ecuador, 4.

Joint-stock Bank Shares have been tolerably firm, at full prices. Australasia have marked 81; Chartered of Asia, 43; London Chartered of Australasia, 211; Ditto, New, 51; London and Westminster, 40; Oriental, 38. Miscellaneous securities have ruled inactive, yet we have very little change to notice in the quotations. Australian Agricultural, 32 ex div.; Australian Royal Mail Steam, 43; Canada, 120; Duto, Government Six per Cent. Bonds, 108; Crystal Palace, 32; London Dock, 102; Victoria, 14; North British Australasian, 12; Peel River Land and Mineral, 21; Royal Mail Steam, 61; South Australian Land, 35. Canal Shares have been dull, as follows:—Ashton and Oldham, 137 ex div.; Coventry, 20; Derby, 84; Grand Surrey, 43; Leicester, 59; Longborough, 57; North, 150; Oxford, 110; Rochdale, 60; Stamford and Worcester, 425; Stourbridge, 285; Worcester and Birmingham, 23 to 24. In Water-works Shares very few transactions have been reported:—Berlin, 27; Grand Junction, 70; Kent, 79; Southwark and Vauxhall, 80; New River, 35; West Middlesex, 94 to 95 ex div. Gas-light and Coke Companies' Shares have realised full quotations:—Continental, 5s 1/2 ex div; Equitable, 29; Great Central, 11; Imperial, 97 to 98 ex div.; Imperial, New, 13 ex div.; Ratcliff, 70; Survey Consumers', 11; Westminster, 29; ex div. Insurance Companies' Shares have met a dull market:—Globe, 123 ex div.; Guardian, 55; Imperial Fire, 327 ex div.; ditto, Life, 18; Law Life, 56; Pelican, 46 to 45; Provident Life, 39; Rock Life, 78; Sun Life, 57; Victoria, 58. Bridge Shares have been quoted:—Hungerford, 12; Vauxhall, 23; Waterloo, 4; Waterloo Old Annuities of £8, 31; ditto, New Annuities of £7, 23.

In Railway Shares only a limited business has been transacted, and the quotations almost generally have not been supported. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Ambergate, Nottingham, and Boston Junction, 4; Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Stone Valley, 31; Bristol and Exeter, 94; Eastern Counties, 11; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 20; Great Northern, 29; Ditto, C Stock, 69; Ditto, B, 128; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 91; Great Western, 68; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 74; London and Blackwall, 8; London and Brighton, 99 1/2 ex div.; London and North-Western, 100; London and South-Western, 86; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 22; Midland, 69; Norfolk, 61; North British, 29; North-Eastern, 76; Ditto, York, 54; North Staffordshire, 13 ex div.; South-Eastern, 58.

LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—East Lincolnshire Six per Cent, 134; Lincoln Extension, 6; Great Luxembourg Shillings, 21; Great Western of Canada Shares, 17.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Calcutta, 97 ex new; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, Four per Cent, 63; Great Western Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 97; Ditto Chester Eight per Cents, 16 1/2; Ditto Five per Cent, 10 1/2; Ditto, Birmingham Stock, 71.

FOREIGN.—Antwerp and Rotterdam, 62; Eastern of France, 32; East Indian Extension, 6; Great Luxembourg Shillings, 21; Great Western of Canada Shares, 17.

Mines have been very dull. On Thursday, Agua Fria were 7; St. John del Rey, 29; General, 15 1/2; Santiago di Cuba, 32; Tin Creek, 2; West Mariposa, 4.

Rachel has resolved finally to quit the stage. Her remaining performances in Paris are already numbered. From March to August she will take the repose necessary to enable her to accomplish the voyage to the United States, where she is engaged to perform for about nine months. After that engagement is terminated, she will retire into private life.

THE MARKETS.

COT-EXCHANGE, Feb. 5.—Our market was but moderately supplied with English wheat to-day. On the whole, the demand was less active than on Wednesday last, yet prices were supported. Fine foreign wheats were mostly held for more money; but the business doing in them was limited, as last Monday's currency. Fine malting barley supported former terms; but grinding and distilling sorts gave way to quarter. Malt was 10s. 1/2 per cwt. but not cheaper. The market for oats being liberal, the sale for that article was 10s. 1/2 per cwt. for less money. Barley and peats were very dull, at barely late rates. Linseed was very small.

COOKERY.—We had an improved demand for oats, at full prices. All other articles were a slow sale, at Monday's currency.

English Wheat, Lass, Kent, red, 6s. to 70s.; ditto, white, 72s. to 80s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 6s. to 70s.; ditto, white, 6s. to 70s.; rye, 41s. to 45s.; grinding barley, 39s. to 31s.; ditto, white, 30s. to 35s.; malting, 33s. to 36s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 6s. to 70s.; 1b. wine, 1s. 6d. to 2s.; Kingston and Ware, 6s. to 70s.; Cheviot, 7s. to 72s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 26s. to 29s.; potato ditto, 23s. to 30s.; Trough and Cork, 25s. to 27s.; ditto, white, 26s. to 29s.; beet beans, 4s. to 46s.; grey peas, 3s. to 40s.; maple, 4s. to 48s.; white, 4s. to 48s.; boilers, 4s. to 46s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 6s. to 73s.; Suffolk, 52s. to 58s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 52s. to 58s. per cwt. 280 lbs.

SEEDS.—There is a fair inquiry for Linseed. Cakes are held at full quotations, but the business doing in them is limited. Clover seed is steady. In the value of other articles no change.

Linenseed, English, sowing, 7s. to 7 1/2; flax, crossing, 6s.; tobacco, 1s. 6d. to 2s.; Odessa, 6s. to 6s.; hempseed, 5s. to 6s.; hemp, 2s. to 2s. 6d.; linseed, 1s. 6d. to 2s.; flaxseed, 5s. to 6s.; white, ditto, 8s. to 10s.; hemp, 1s. 6d. to 2s.; linseed, 1s. 6d. to 2s.; Canary, 2s. to 2s. 6d. per quarter.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 11d. of household bread, 4s. to 9d. per four-pound loaf.

IMPERIAL WEEKLY AVERAGES.—Wheat, 70s. 11d.; barley, 32s. 2d.; oats, 26s. 7d.; rye, 4s. 9d.; beans, 4s. 2d.; peas, 4s. 6d.

THE SIX WEEKS' AVERAGE.—Wheat, 72s. 5d.; barley, 33s. 5d.; oats, 27s. 2d.; rye, 4s. 10d.; beans, 4s. 2d.; peas, 4s. 9d.

DUTIES.—Wheat, 1s.; barley, 1s.; oats, 1s.; rye, 1s.; beans, 1s.; peas, 1s.

ENGLISH GRAIN SOLD LAST WEEK.—Wheat, 93,879; barley, 94,250; oats, 16,607; rye, 8s.; beans, 5739; peas, 1811 quarters.

THE BUSINESS doing in our market is very moderate, yet prices are mostly supported. Common sound congo, 9d. to 10d. per lb. The supply on offer is good.

SUGAR.—Our market has ruled firm this week, and a full average business has been transacted, at extreme rates. Barbadoes has changed hands at 3s. to 3s. 6d.; Mauritius, 2s. to 2s. 6d.; Bengal, 26s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; Madras, 2s. to 2s. 6d.; Manilla, 30s. to 30s. 6d. per cwt. London sugar at command full quotations. Stewed goods are in fair request, at from 42s. to 46s. per cwt. The total clearances to the 3rd inst. were £49,676 cwt., against £48,767 in 1854.

Coffee.—There has been rather more business doing in this article, and, in some instances, we have ruled a shade higher. Good ordinary native has realised 4s. to 46s. 6d. per cwt.

RICE.—The demand is very limited; yet we have no sellers on lower terms. English is very dull, and the best weekly Dorsel is quoted at 10s. to 10s. 6d. per cwt. Bacon is in limited request, on former terms. In the value of other kinds of provisions we have no change to report.

Tallow.—The demand is steady, but the transactions are limited. P.Y.C. on the 31st inst. selling at 5s. 6d. to 5s. 12d. per cwt. The stock is now 40,000 casks. Rough fat, 3s. 1d. per cwt.

Oils.—Very little change has taken place in the value of oils. Linseed is quoted at 7s. to 7s. 6d. per cwt. Tallow is still very dull; spirits, 41s. 6d. to 41s. 12d. in punctum; 1s. 6d. to 1s. 12d. per cwt.

Spirits.—Rum is very dull in sale, at 2s. 9d. to 2s. 11d. for proof liquors, and 2s. 5d. to 2s. 7d. per gallon. Brandy moves off slowly, at barely stationary prices. In the value of Geneva and corn spirits very little change has taken place.

Cream.—Hollywell, 1s.; Walker's Princely, 1s.; Wylam, 1s.; Northumberland, 20s. 3d.; Newcastle, 1s. 6d.; Whitworth, 20s. per ton.

AMUSEMENTS, &c.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.—Monday and Friday, Miss Cushman as Romeo; Juliet, Miss Swanborough, being the Last Night; but Two of ROMEO and JULIET. Tuesday, The Knights of the Round Table; Tom Titter, Mr. Buckstone. Wednesday and Saturday, Guy Manning; Meg Merriville, Miss Cushman. Thursday, Presented at Court. The Pantomime of Little Bo-Peep every Evening, being its Last Week but One.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, LOUIS XI.; Wednesday, HAMLET; Saturday, LANCERS. PANTOMIME Every Evening.

POLYPHONY.—Go and hear LOVE, the greatest DRAMATIC VENTRILLOQUIST in Europe, in his New Entertainment called THE LONDON SEASON, at the UPPER HALL, EKELIN GALLERY, 69, Quadrant, Regent-street.—Every Evening, at Eight, except Saturday; Saturday, at Three.

LEICESTER-SQUARE.—The AZTECS and the BARTHMIN.—The first of either now seen in Europe. Exhibuted DAILY, from Three to Five, and Seven to Half-past Nine. Lectures at Four and Eight. Vocal and Instrumental Concerts every Evening, by Miss C. Wallworth, Mr. H. Smith, and Mr. W. J. Morris, on the Crystal-Ophonium. Admission: Stalls, 2s.; Reserved Seats, 1s.; Gallery, 8d. HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS, DAVIDY, from Twelve to Two. Admission, 2s. and 2s.

ROYAL PANOPTICON of SCIENCE and ART, LEICESTER-SQUARE.—Novel attractions daily.—ALADDIN and the WONDERFUL LAMP: the Legend told by Mr. L. Buckingham, at 3.40 and 8.45; and Dramatic Views of the War in the Crimea, at 2.50 and 7.55; with a description of the War and the Organ. Performances of Classical Music on the Grand Organ by Mr. W. T. Best, Organist to the Institution, at 4.25 and 9.30. Luminous Fountains, 100 feet high, 4.55 and 9.55. Heinlein's Divine Apparatus and the Subaqueous Light in the Crystal Clusters, 2.40 and 7. Cosmograms of St. Petersburg and Moscow, with Portrait of Czar Nicholas. Lectures on Electricity; by Dr. Noad, on Monday evening, 7.45; by Mr. C. F. Partington, daily at 3.10 and 8.15, except Saturday; on the Resources of Modern Warfare, by Dr. Sennert, Wednesday evening, 7.10. Chemistry, by Mr. G. F. Ansell, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, at 1.40. On Fluids and their Undulations, by Mr. W. H. Birt, Tuesday and Saturday, at 1.40. Oceanic Discovery, Thursday, at 7.10. Franklin's Arctic Voyages, Tuesday and Friday, at 7.10, by Mr. L. Buckingham. General Demonstrations on Scientific and Mechanical Subjects at Intervals daily, by Mr. C. F. Partington. Doors open in the Morning from 12 to 5; Evening (Saturday excepted), 7 to 10. Admission, 1s.; Schools, 1s.; Children under ten, Half-price. The Photographic department of this Institution is open daily.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—MONDAY EVENING, the 12th last, Dramatic Readings by Miss GLYN—MACBETH. Important Lectures—On the New Bank-note, by Dr. Bachofen; on the Telephones Concert, by Invisible Performers on four of Erard's Harps, by J. H. Pepper, Esq. Splendid Optical Diorama of the Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor. Views of the War, Perkins's Steam Gun, which now discharges 200 balls per minute.

MUSICAL WINTER EVENING.—THURSDAY, FEB. 15th.—WILLIS'S ROOMS.—Ernest, Gottrie, Hill, Patti, Pauer, Barret, Lazarus, Snelling, and Harper will perform in Quarters by Mozart, Pauer, and Mendelssohn, &c. Single Tickets, Half-a-guinea each, to be had of Cramer and Co., Chappell and Co., and Ollivier, Bond-street. For particulars apply to J. ELLA, Director.

EXETER-HALL, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14.—The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of London have signified their intention of being present at the performance of the NEW PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY, in aid of the FUNDS of the ASYLUM for IDIOTS.—Stalls Tickets, One Guinea; Reserve Seats, 10s. 6d.; to be had at the Office of the Asylum, 29, Poultney.

EXETER-HALL.—Mrs. FANNY KEMBLE.—MONDAY, FEB. 12, SECOND and LAST READING by Mrs. Fanny Kemble, MILDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, with Mendelssohn's Music. Full Orchestra and Chorus. Conductor, Mr. Benedict. To commence at Eight o'clock.—Tickets at Mr. Mitchell's, 33, Old Bond-street; Messrs. Keith and Prowse, City; Libraries; Musicsellers; and at the Office, No. 6, in Exeter-hall.

SOCIETE FRANCAISE de BIENFAISANCE (French Benevolent Society, founded in 1842.)—The Fourteenth Annual GRAND DRESS BALL, in aid of the Funds of this Institution, will take place at the HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS on MONDAY next, FEBRUARY 12th. Tickets to be had at the principal Musicsellers, and at the Office of the Society, No. 10a, Duke-street, Portland-place.

MISS H. S. PICKERSGILL, Professor of Singing and the Pianoforte, has REMOVED to 8, Baker-street, Portman-square, where she requests her Pupils will address all communications.—February 5th, 1855.

BLACKHEATH.—Miss H. S. PICKERSGILL, Professor of Singing and the Pianoforte, begs to inform the Inhabitants of Blackheath that she attends there on Saturdays, 8, Baker-street, Portman-square.

DISSOLVING VIEWS.—Amusement and Instruction by means of CARPENTER and WESTLEY's Improved PHANTASMAGORIA LANTERNS, with the Chromatropic and Dissolving Views, and every possible variety of Sliders, including Natural History, Comic, Lever, Moveable, and Plain; Astronomical Views in the Holy Land, Scriptural Portraits, &c. No. 1, Lantfern, with Argand Lamp in a box, £2 12s. 6d. No. 2, Disto, of a large size, £4 14s. 6d. A pair of Dissolving View Lanterns, No. 3, with Appendix, £11 11s. The above are supplied with a Lucernar Microscope and Seven Sliders, at 2s. 6d. extra. The Lamp for the No. 3 Lanterns is very superior. (The price of the Lanterns is without sliders.)

Lists of the Sliders and Prices upon application to the Manufacturers, Messrs. Carpenter and Westley, Opticians, 24, Regent-street, Waterloo-place, London.

THE POLY-HARMONICON; or Royal Musical Game, is based on the scientific principles of Harmony, and, by a simple change of cards, upwards of 2900 complete and Meaning Polkas can be produced. Explained daily at the Polytechnic. Price 3s. 6d. and 5s.; Duets, 6s. Sent free for eight extra stamps, by P. EZEKIEL VAN NOEDEN, 115, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury. Trade supplied. Copyright.

OYSTERS.—J. SWEETING is happy to inform his Friends and the Public that his BURNHAM RIVER NATIVE OYSTERS are as fine as last season. He has them six years old, four hours from the beds, at his Fish and Oyster Establishment, 139, Cheshire. Superior Oyster-rooms, Steed's Ale, Reid's Stout.

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE, in BOTTLE, as supplied to the Crystal Palace. Also in Casks of 18 Gallons. Recommended by Baron Liebig.—Address, HARRINGTON PARKER and CO., 54, Pall-mall, London.

BRANDY.—Dr. URE and Dr. LETHEBY, having analysed our EAU-DE-VIE, concur in pronouncing it a spirit of undoubted purity, peculiarly free from acidity, perfectly wholesome, and decidedly preferable to direct importations from Cognac.—Imperial gallon, 10s. In French barrels, 31s. per dozen, LONDON: HENRY BRIFFA and CO., Old Festival Distillery, Holborn.

SILBERBERG'S celebrated BREMEN CIGARES, 1s. per lb.; Smoking Mixture, 6s. per lb.; the finest imported Havannah Cigars, from 2s. to 3s. per lb., at LOUIS SILBERBERG's, 194, Fleet-street, and 19, St. Martin's-lane, Grand. The trade supplied on liberal terms. Goods sent to all parts on receipt of Post-office order.

FRENCH IMPROVED MODERATEUR LAMPS.—The most Economic, Useful, and best Patterns, sold by FREEMAN and CO., Merchants, &c., Old Mincing-street, to her Majesty, 3, Wigmore-street, four doors from Cavendish-square. Established 1853.

GAS-FITTING.—GARDNER'S Twelve-Gumine Estimates, for Ten-Roomed Houses, includes Chandeliers, Library, staircase, kitchen, and bed-rooms—comprising in all fifteen lights.—GARDNER'S (by Appointment to her Majesty), 43, Strand, Charing-cross.

THE BEST OIL in the WORLD!—PURE FRENCH COLZA, oil, 5s. per gallon. Manufactured by M. LEMAIRE and CO., at Paris; and sold in England by their only Agents, the Lemon Soap and Candle Company, 76, New Bond-street.—A pair in Upright, French, and other styles, in brass, mahogany, &c., provided and fitted with the most approved principles. Cribs, cots, &c.; Bed-room Furniture of every description. J. and S. STEELE, Bedding, Bedstead, and Bed-room Furniture Manufacturers, 12, Oxford-street.

MASSON'S PATENT DRIED AND COMPRESSED VEGETABLES.—CHOLLET and CO., Purveyors to the French Army and Navy, to the Lords of the Admiralty, and the British Expedition to the Crimea. General Agents, M. DEVAUX, 62, King William-street, City; M. DIOISY and CO., 33 and 35, Great St. Helen's, City; FORTIN, Mason, and CO., 181, Piccadilly, West-end. N.B.—Compress alone can protect fresh vegetables from the deteriorating influence of the atmosphere.

NORTH LONDON or UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—A PUBLIC DINNER in Aid of the Funds of this Charity will take place on TUESDAY, the 20th MARCH, at the FREEMASONS' TAVERN. The Earl GRANVILLE has kindly undertaken to preside.

It is two years since a similar Appeal was made, and the Committee now earnestly entreat the assistance of the benevolent. The Hospital is embarrassed with a debt of £5000, gradually incurred since 1847; but increased more rapidly during the last two years in consequence of the very high price of provisions.

Relief has been afforded during the past year to upwards of 16,000 poor and suffering persons, but for the want of funds, the Committee are obliged to limit the number of beds to 120. The Committee return their hearty thanks to the new and other contributors mentioned in the subjoined list, and to their annual supporters, for the prompt payment of their subscriptions for the current year; to those who have doubled or increased their contributions in consideration of present circumstances they offer their most grateful acknowledgments.

List of contributions since the last announcement.

* Donors on former occasions.

* A. B., ninth donation, £. s. d.
John Smith and Co. 29 0 0

John Scott, Esq. 1 5 0

Agnes, Mrs. (ann.) 2 2 0

Baker, Mr. (ann.) 1 1 0

Barton, Hugh, Esq. 12 0 0

Berry, Miss Emma 10 10 0

Bishop, Geo., Esq. Jun. 10 0 0

Bradley, Dr. 1 1 0

Cobb, Mrs. (ann.) 1 1 0

Dickson, G. F., Esq. 5 5 0

Father, Thos. H., Esq. 10 0 0

Flanagan, Mrs. (from £5 to £10 ann.) 5 0 0

Gregory, Chas., Esq. (from £1 to £2 2s.)

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Pearson, Miss (ann.) 5 5 0

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Slade, Wm., Esq. 5 0 0

Wright, Mrs. J., Hornsby (ann.) 3 3 0

Patients, Hobson 1 0 0

Wright, Mrs. J., Hornsby (ann.) 1 0 0

STATUES IN THE NEW PALACE AT WESTMINSTER.



WILLIAM I. (1066).



MATILDA, QUEEN OF WM. I. (1066).



WILLIAM II. (1087).



HENRY I. (1100.)



STEPHEN (1120).



MATILDA, WIFE OF STEPHEN (1120).



RICHARD I. (1189).



ELEANOR, WIFE OF RICHARD I. (1189).



EDWARD II. (1307).



MARGARET, WIFE OF EDWARD II. (1307).



RICHARD II. (1377).



HENRY VI. (1422).



ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF EDWARD IV. (1478).



HENRY VIII. (1509).



EDWARD VI. (1547).



QUEEN ELIZABETH. (1558.)



JAMES I. (1603).



ANNE OF DENMARK, QUEEN OF JAMES I. (1603).



HENRIETTA, QUEEN OF CHAS. I. (1625).



CROMWELL (1649).



CHARLES II. (1660.)



WILLIAM III. (1688.)



QUEEN OF WILLIAM III. (1688.)



QUEEN ANNE (1702.)

STATUES IN THE NEW PALACE AT WESTMINSTER.

We now complete our series of the Statues which fill the niches in the Central Hall and St. Stephen's Hall in the New Palace at Westminster. They do not follow in strict chronological order, as at the date of our former illustration many of the Statues were not finished. The entire series is now placed, and gives a richness and finish to the entrances by which they stand, one above the other. All are designed by, and executed under the superintendence of, Mr. John Thomas, and reflect much credit upon his ability; there being much difficulty in varying the attitudes of so great a number of figures.

GIBSON'S MARBLE GROUP FOR THE PRINCE'S ROOM IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The most interesting and attractive work of sculpture now being executed in the studio of Mr. Gibson at Rome is a colossal statue of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, on either side of which will be placed two figures representing Justice and Clemency. The group is intended for the Prince's Room in the House of Lords. Workmen are at this moment employed in executing in marble Mr. Gibson's admirable design. The head of her Majesty is complete, and I am enabled to send you a photograph of the same, by Macpherson. The other portions of the statue are only dawning into form, under the chisel of the workman; but the plaster cast of course conveys the sculptor's conception. The Queen is seated in a coronation-chair, which chair rests on a pedestal adorned with emblems of Science and Art. The footstool is to be enriched with mosaic emblems; and the whole will be coloured and gilded. The likeness of our beloved Queen is excellent; yet its familiar portrait character does not detract from the dignity. The idea of colouring and gilding statuary is now occupying much attention in Rome. The present group is an experiment; and it remains to be seen what opinion the mass of the public will pronounce on a new mode (as far as the moderns are concerned) of treating sculpture.

THE QUEEN'S STAIRCASE, WINDSOR CASTLE.

This staircase is situated at the south-east angle of the Great Quadrangle in Windsor Castle, and leads directly to the Royal apartments. It is exclusively the Royal staircase, and is entered from the Quadrangle through a porch which forms an important feature in the building. In plan the staircase is very peculiar, being placed at an angle of the building; it is, therefore, three-sided instead of square, and the ceiling is divided into triangular-shaped compartments to suit the quaint plan. There are two lantern lights in the roof, one over the other, each enriched with trefoil mouldings and foliage, and having trefoil-headed windows. The staircase itself winds to the right and left, meeting on a landing in the centre, the balustrade being ornamented with a range of trefoils of somewhat large design. On the landing are two doors leading to the Queen's apartments, and opposite to them a door to the vestibule. The walls of the staircase are panelled, with trefoil-headed arches, for some height, and an air of richness pervades the whole, from the crimson velvet piled carpets, and the numerous lamps which are placed on the balustrades. Coloured and stained glass, however, are wanted to add to their luxurious tints to the scene.

CABINET PICTURES AT SYDENHAM.—The various objects of art in the Palace at Sydenham can now be seen and studied at leisure, and many of the smaller treasures will be noticed which in more crowded times would not have been observed. Amongst these latter may be mentioned the beautiful collection of cabinet pictures in water-colours, the work of Mr. West, and painted by that gentleman to the order of the Crystal Palace Directors. They are one hundred and thirty or forty in number, and are the fruits of a tour through all the great Continental galleries. They comprise copies of all the great Raphaels, Titians, Rubens, &c., in Europe; and in every case a very successful attempt is made to communicate a satisfactory idea of the style, drawing, and colouring of the master. To those who only know the great galleries by the descriptions of the Handbooks, a careful inspection of this elegant little collection will be invaluable, while the more travelled visitor cannot fail to acknowledge their great artistic merit and fidelity.

PRINCE MENSCHIKOFF'S GALLANTRY.—An English officer, now a prisoner in Sebastopol, had a letter sent him from a young lady in England, to the effect that she "hoped, when he took Menschikoff prisoner, that he would send her a button from his coat, for her to keep as a relic." The letter was forwarded by flag of truce into Sebastopol, with other letters for prisoners now in the enemy's hands. This letter fell into Menschikoff's own hands, of course, to be read ere delivered. On coming to the above passage, he immediately cut a button from his coat, and sent it out under flag of truce, to be conveyed to the lady, with a remark to the following effect:—"That he had no idea yet of being taken prisoner; but, rather than disappoint a young lady of so simple a request, he would fulfil her wish himself before that time arrived."

AMONGST the numerous suite of persons who have accompanied the Duke and Duchess of Brabant to Egypt are the Canon Mieslin, who has written a remarkable work on the Holy Land and Syria; Dr. Wimmer, the Duke's medical adviser; and a painter named Fieger, whom his Royal Highness has taken with him for the purpose of making drawings of all the remarkable spots visited by the Royal party.



MARBLE BUST OF HER MAJESTY, BY J. GIBSON, R.A.



WINDSOR CASTLE.—THE PRIVATE STAIRCASE.

OLD LONDON MAKING WAY FOR THE NEW.

A SKETCH IN THREADNEEDLE-STREET.

(See the Engraving at page 144.)

SINCE the time of the Great Fire of 1666, London has not been so greatly changed as it has been during the last quarter of a century; and it is gratifying to note that these changes distinctly show the onward progress of the nation, both in taste and wealth. It is curious to compare in an architectural point of view the places of business, such as banks, insurance-offices, shops, taverns, &c., of the times to which we refer, and the structures intended for similar uses at the present day. The new squares, streets, and warehouses look like palaces by the contrast. This beneficial change has been most visible during the late City improvements, which, although not by any means all that we could wish, will, undoubtedly, be attended with much good. Our Sketch shows the progress of a beneficial alteration in the strongest centre of our commerce, which when carried out will render the well-known street worthy of its important position. In viewing the grim old building—part of which is represented in our engraving—many recollections of former changes come to memory.

It is curious to think of this now bustling neighbourhood as shown in Agar's old plan of London, of about the date of the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. At this time the Royal Exchange was not built. Aldgate and the City wall and ditch are shown in perfect condition; outside the wall a large field runs to Hogg's lane, in which persons are busily engaged in drying linen, &c. The scaffold is on Tower-hill, and the only names of streets and churches near Threadneedle-street mentioned, are—Harte str., S. Caterin Colemans, Blanck Cheaston, Mark lane, Fan Church, Lime st., S. Denys, Leaden hall, Bushop gate streate, Broad st., Gracious st., St. Clement's lane, Abchurch lane, and the other lanes leading towards the Thames—Escheap, Lombard st., and Burchin lane.

In the plan of London executed by order of the Corporation, Threadneedle-street commences at the west end of the Gresham's Royal Exchange, which was near the present Mansion-house; all except a few houses at the east end, where the South Sea House stands, was destroyed by the Great Fire; a few houses of the old date are now in course of demolition.

It is deeply to be regretted that, after the fire had done its fearful work, the plan of Sir Christopher Wren for building the new city was not carried into effect. The great architect wished to continue Leadenhall-street in a straight line past St. Paul's to Temple-bar, and to form two other straight lines of streets nearer to the river, with smaller streets at right and other angles. The Royal Exchange in this plan is placed in the centre of a large area, and surrounded by the Post-office, Excise-office, Goldsmiths' (at that time bankers also), and insurance offices.

After the fire, in spite of Wren's suggestion, the streets were built very nearly on the old plan, but of substantial brickwork, instead of wood and plaster; however much this might aid the stability of the City, it certainly did not add to its picturesque or elegant appearance. Over the large space swept by the fire the houses were nearly destitute of ornament, and similar in shape.

The next great change in this neighbourhood was the erection of the Bank of England, in 1734. Previous to this time the business of the

Bank had been carried on since its foundation, in 1694, in the hall of the Grocers' Company. The building was enlarged by Sir Robert Taylor, between the years 1766—86; and, says Mr. Cunningham, "Sir John Soane subsequently receiving the appointment of architect to the Bank, and the business of the Governor and Company increasing, much of Sampson's first building, and of the wings erected by Sir R. Taylor, were either altered or taken down, and the (one-storyed) Bank, as we now see it, covering an irregular area of four acres, altogether completed by the same architect." Threadneedle-street, which runs from Bishopsgate-street to the Bank, is called by Stow *Threeneadle-street*.

Cunningham says: "The grandfather and father of Sir Philip Sydney lived in this street, in a tenement called Lady Tate's House, on the site of a part of the House and Hospital of St. Anthony, annexed by Edward IV. to the Collegiate Church of St. George, in Windsor. The Dean and Canons of Windsor demised this house to Sir Henry Sydney by an indenture dated May 26th, 1563, for the further term of sixty years, at the yearly rent of £1 13s. 4d." The alteration of the value of land on this spot since that time is extraordinary: for a narrow frontage near the Merchant Taylors' Hall the Company receives a ground-rent of £3 per foot per annum. This great increase should serve as a lesson that we should not delay necessary improvements, for undoubtedly the value of land in the heart of London will increase in a compound ratio.

THE GREEN MAN, BARNET.—This celebrated inn and posting-house, which has existed for nearly a century, is now entirely closed, and the furniture, horses, and farming stock of the late proprietor (Mr. James Buckell), were sold by auction, by Messrs. Page and Cameron, on the 17th and 18th ult. The Grand Stand used at the annual races held here formed a prominent feature in the sale. The house must be well known to all persons who formerly travelled northwards from London, as it stands at the angle formed by the junction of the new road to St. Albans, and the great North or Hatfield road. Some idea of the business formerly done at the Green Man will be conceived when we state that on three successive days in 1808 nearly £160 was taken for posting and baits in the yard, and on a given day in 1828 fifty-six pairs of horses left the stables. Upwards of 100 coaches at that time ran through Barnet, and it is computed that quite a third of them changed horses at this house.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

CONVOCATION.

In answer to a question from the Earl of Shaftesbury,

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY observed that he did not think it would be necessary either to prorogue or adjourn Convocation further, because it was not intended to initiate any new business, but simply to proceed with what had been commenced, and to consider the reports of Committees which had already been appointed.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The Earl of ABERDEEN, in moving the adjournment of the House, said that he thought it right to inform their Lordships that his noble friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lord Palmerston) was commissioned by her Majesty to form an Administration; and, as his noble friend was then engaged in that work, he would only propose to adjourn to the next day.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

BALACLAVA HARBOUR.

In answer to Mr. Deedes, Admiral BERKELEY read extracts from a letter of Sir Edmund Lyons, and from the reports of thirty-six masters of transport-vessels, denying that any confusion had ever existed in the harbour of Balaklava.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER postponed, on the part of the Home Secretary, the orders of the day, with the exception of the Fisheries (North America) Bill; and he was desired by his noble friend to state that all the reasons which induced the House to waive the discussion of public business on Friday last existed still in their full force.

Lord ERRINGTON wished to know whether that statement was intended to imply that no progress had been made in the formation of a Government?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he had received no communication from his noble friend on that subject.

The American Fisheries Bill was then read a third time and passed.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S EXPLANATION.

On the question that the House do now adjourn, Lord J. RUSSELL rose to reply to some portions of the speech of the Duke of Newcastle last week. He might state at the outset that that speech attempted to place the matter rather in the light of a personal dispute than on the broad grounds on which he attempted to place it. It appeared to him, at the close of last session, that the composition of the Government was not such as to inspire any great party enthusiasm, and frequent defeats of the Government took place in consequence. This would have induced him to resign at that period but for the war. At the same time he felt that the conduct of the war was likely to be much affected by the personal character of the War Minister. The Duke of Newcastle complained that he (Lord J. Russell) represented him as anxious to retain the War-office last year. He made that statement not on general rumour merely, but on the authority of a letter from Lord Aberdeen. As to his taking the office himself, he would have taken it if Lord Aberdeen had offered it to him; but he considered the office wholly alien to all his experience and habits of business. At the same time he did not think that a Prime Minister of the character and habits of Lord Aberdeen, and a War Minister of the character and habits of the Duke of Newcastle, were fitted to carry on the war with energy and efficiency. A more important statement was, that he had abandoned his opinions on the 16th of December. But it was to be remembered that he had from the first divided his proposition into two heads—the one was with respect to the consolidation of the offices, the other as to the person of the Minister. Now, with regard to the consolidation of the offices, he had changed his views, chiefly on the opinion of Lord Panmure; but on the personal question he had never changed his mind at all, though, after what had passed with Lord Aberdeen, he declined to bring it before the Cabinet. It was very likely he was in error on that point; that he ought to have brought the matter before the Cabinet, and, if he were overruled, then and there to resign. There were other points, too, in the conduct of the war with which he was not satisfied, but he still continued a member of the Cabinet. He admitted he ought to have brought the question sooner before the Cabinet. He admitted that that was an error; but it would have been a still graver error—it would have been an error in morality, and without sound morality there could be no sound politics—if he had stood up and told the House to be satisfied with a state of things which did not satisfy himself. He went on to say that he was totally ignorant of the statement since made by the Duke of Newcastle, that that nobleman had some days before the meeting of Parliament placed his resignation in Lord Aberdeen's hands. That announcement was new to him, and he thought, as his resignation was based on the inefficiency of the Duke, that the Earl of Aberdeen need not have been so hasty in accepting his resignation, but might have acquainted him with the Duke's resignation, and consulted with him whether that might not alter the state of affairs. However, his resignation was accepted; and now, in answer to all the slanders that had lately been directed against him, he had only to say, that, if his past life did not refute them, he had no other answer to give. He must say, however, in reply to the sneer of the Duke of Newcastle, implied in his letter to Lord Aberdeen, "do not give any pretext to Lord John Russell for leaving the Government," that that sneer might have been spared. Instead of attributing his (Lord J. Russell's) dissatisfaction to selfishness, it might have occurred to him that it was just possible it might arise from his own inefficiency. Having finished this statement, he had now to state to the House, that her Majesty called upon him on Friday night last to undertake the formation of a Government. There were two reasons to induce him to attempt the task. One was, that he had been partly instrumental in breaking up the last—the other, that he was charged with shrinking from the consequences. He did undertake the task, therefore, but he found insuperable obstacles in his way, and twenty-four hours after receiving her Majesty's commands he resigned the honour back into her hands. He hoped that whoever might be successful in this onerous task would receive all the support of the House. He then adverted to the attack made upon him on Friday night in the speech of Sir De Lacy Evans, and reminded the House that he stated at the outset he did not intend to enter into the details of these battles. He trusted, however, the time would come when the House would find some mode of acknowledging, not only the gallantry of the army, but, what was a more rare quality, its patient endurance of every privation to which men could be subject.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER defended Lord John Russell from the attack of Sir De Lacy Evans on Friday night, but deprecated the practice of referring to negotiations now going on so long, as there was no responsible Government. With regard to the composition of the late Cabinet, he stated that the appointment of the Duke of Newcastle to the War Department took place with the full concurrence of the whole Cabinet. The noble Lord said that when he changed his mind in December it was as to the offices, not as to the Minister. But the House must know that his colleagues, and especially the Prime Minister, did not understand that the noble Lord made such a distinction; there was nothing in his language towards his colleagues to induce them to believe that he still retained any portion of his former dissatisfaction. He suggested no change—he proposed no plans—he uttered no censure. He defended Lord Aberdeen from the charge of concealing the resignation of the Duke of Newcastle, on the ground that the Duke had not resigned—he had only intimated to the Premier his intention to resign; and he concluded by strongly repudiating the charges of selfishness and treachery which had been directed against his noble friend.

Viscount ERRINGTON rose, but was nearly inaudible, on account of the rush of members from the House and Galleries, which had, up to this moment, been densely crowded. His Lordship was understood to deplore the effect which the present state of affairs with respect to the formation of a Government would have on the army and the country at large. He expressed his hope that such a Government would soon be formed that would bring the war, which now constituted almost his only politics, to a speedy and successful issue.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The Earl of ABERDEEN: My Lords, in moving the adjournment of the House, I think it necessary to express my confident hope that, before the next meeting of the House, on Thursday, the present state of uncertainty and embarrassment will have been brought to a happy termination (Hear, hear).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

MINISTERIAL INTERREGNUM.

Sir G. GREY said: I have been requested by my noble friend the Secre-

tary of State for the Home Department to state to the House that, in pursuance of her Majesty's commands, he has undertaken the task of forming a Government. I had, therefore, intended to move that the House, at its rising, should adjourn to Thursday; but, since I came in, I have been informed that there is some business which it will be necessary to transact to-morrow. The sitting, however, will be a very short one. I, therefore, move that the House at its rising adjourn till to-morrow.

PROMOTIONS IN THE ARMY.

Lord GODERICH gave notice that on Tuesday, the 20th instant, he would move the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of the House, the present system of promotion in the army, under which a non-commissioned officer seldom attains the rank of officer, and never that of field officer, is injurious to the public service, and unfair to the non-commissioned officers."

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

On the question that the House do adjourn,

Mr. BENTINCK rose to call the attention of the House to the present anomalous and disastrous state of public affairs. It was now more than a week since the late Government had resigned. Since then it was rumoured that Lord Derby attempted to form a Government, in which he was first supported by the noble Lord the Home Secretary, but who very shortly afterwards withdrew his support—conduct which, if correctly reported, savoured of vacillation (Much laughter, arising from the honourable gentleman pronouncing the word "vacillation"). After that Lord John Russell attempted to form a Government and failed. Now it was rumoured that the noble Lord the Home Secretary, who was entrusted with the same task, had met with difficulties, in consequence of certain public men attempting to obtain a preponderance in the Cabinet. He thought this was a discreditable state of things, and he was induced to notice it in the hope that the House would use its influence to put an end to it.

Sir C. Wood deprecated such a discussion at the present time. When the Government was formed then would be the proper time for such remarks, but not when the Government was in the course of formation.

Mr. WHITESIDE defended the course which Mr. Bentinck had taken.

Mr. SCOTT also insisted upon the propriety of the House expressing an opinion at the present time. The feeling of the House and the country was that the head of the late Government was a *caput mortuum*, and unfit to be at the head of the Government; and yet it was now rumoured that that individual was to have a place in the new Cabinet. He hoped the country would not tolerate such an outrage upon its opinion.

Mr. LANOCHEIRE thought the character of the House would not be raised, or public business promoted, by desultory conversations of this kind. It might be necessary that the House should have to interpose by an address to the Crown on the present anomalous state of affairs; but, that its interposition might be effectual, it was most desirable that they should not enter into discussion now.

Mr. MALINS also complained of the want of a Government, and asked if it were true that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was the cause of the delay? He urged that the House should at once proceed to nominate the Committee of Inquiry agreed to on Monday week. If the Ministry were not formed by Thursday next, he hoped some honourable member would, without further delay, move an address to the Crown on this subject.

Mr. S. WORTLEY, on public grounds, deprecated the continuance of this discussion. All must regret the want of a Government at the present time when every hour was of importance to our armies in the East. But public opinion had already pointed to one member of this House as most competent to undertake the formation of a Government, and they had that night been informed that that member had been entrusted by her Majesty with the task of forming a Government. This conversation could only tend to embarrass his plans, and he therefore hoped it would now cease.

Mr. ROENICK rose to explain to the House why he had not moved the appointment of his committee. He was anxious that the Committee should consist of the leading members of this House, but, as he did not know who might be members of the Government, he could not be sure that in naming a member he might not be naming a member of the Administration. As to the formation of a Government, he would say one word. Rumour said that the noble Lord the Home Secretary had met with difficulties in forming a Government. The noble Lord might make himself easy. The country had called him, and upon the country he might rely. If any one attempted to cross his path, he might say to them, "Stand aside! I will appoint those who, if they have not the confidence of this House, will, through me, obtain the confidence of the country."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

A number of bills were read a second time and committed.

NEW WRITS.

Mr. HAYTER moved for a new writ for the borough of Tiverton, in the room of Lord Palmerston, who has accepted the office of First Lord of the Treasury; and one for the Southern Division of Wiltshire, in the room of Mr. Sidney Herbert, who has accepted the office of one of her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

SUPPLY.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved that the House should go into a Committee of Supply, in order to take a vote on the Ordnance estimates. He proposed to enter upon the estimates on Friday week, beginning with the Navy estimates. He did not think the First Lord of the Admiralty would be able to take his seat before that day. It was necessary not only that the money should be raised and assigned by Parliament, but it was necessary that a bill of Ways and Means should be passed to enable that money to be issued. If the House agreed to the vote he intended to ask for, it might be reported to-morrow; and he would then move the adjournment of the House for a week.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY and Mr. MUNTZ complained of the irregularity of the proceeding, the first intimation of it which hon. members had being in the paper of that morning.

Sir C. Wood observed that no one would be committed by the vote on account which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had asked for. In reference to a remark by Sir H. Willoughby, that the House had been taken by surprise, the right hon. Baronet reminded him that the estimates had been on the table for a week.

Mr. WALPOLE said that the Navy estimates were not yet laid upon the table.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the Navy estimates would be laid upon the table to-morrow.

Mr. STAFFORD said he had that morning received a letter from Scutari; stating that the condition of the hospital was becoming worse rather than better, and that there were more than forty deaths there every day.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that there were two courses which the honourable member might have taken with discretion—first, to have laid his statements before the Government; and, secondly, to call the members of the Government in that House to account if they neglected those statements; but the hon. gentleman had made no communication to the Government, and had made his statements in the absence of those who had the management of the War Department. From his knowledge of the case, he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) was able to say that the late Secretary at War had not been behindhand in his duty in making provision for the increased demands upon the hospital. That right honourable gentleman had organised a civil military establishment, which would be sent out at the earliest possible period, for the purpose of superintending the hospital at Scutari (Cheers).

Mr. WHITESIDE said that while the gravest disasters were occurring in the Crimea, which it would take a Defoe adequately to describe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had his feelings under control, and could speak with tranquillity of a perishing army. He saw no reason why any member who had complaints to make should go merrily to the Secretary at War, upon whom the House had passed a formal censure, and who by a shuffle of the political cards had succeeded to a higher office.

Col. KNOX had just received a letter from the Crimea, from which he ascertained that 1000 men were dying there every week, that the whole force of the British army was 11,000 men, and that everything was mismanaged by the authorities there.

Col. DUNNE was prepared to state, that instead of there being 30,000 men in the Crimea, as asserted a few evenings since by the Secretary at War, there were not 11,000, and that not 2000 of these were able to take up arms. The Government had destroyed half the army; and, if the Ministry stood which was now about to resume office, the other half would soon be destroyed. Sebastopol might be taken, no doubt would, but it would be by the French army.

Sir W. MOLESWORTH denied the statement that the deaths amounted to 1000 a week. He believed the statement made by the Secretary at War was strictly true, according to the last returns.

The Speaker then left the chair, and the House went into a Committee of Supply.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved for a vote of £1,200,000 on account of Ordnance supplementary estimate.

The vote was agreed to after some discussion, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to two.

(Continued on page 130.)

OPINIONS OF THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. III.)

I suppose it will be called *conceit* on my part, but I really think that we should stand a chance of getting better men at the head of affairs if some of the Silent Members were occasionally invited to take a share of the Government. The difficulty just experienced in forming an Administration has arisen not so much from there being a limited choice of fit men, but from there being a limited choice of men with "Parliamentary reputations"—that is to say, men who have the talent for speech-making, which is acknowledged to be the greatest of all impediments to the transaction of public business. Talking is the great vice of Parliament, and the chief bar to useful legislation; yet it is thought necessary to select the principal talkers in the land to conduct the affairs of the nation. So-and-so is admitted to be a most able man of business, but if he cannot make an effective speech he is put aside as of no use in the Government. The initiated are familiar with the rumour that a certain Attorney-General obtained his high office, not because he was the ablest lawyer whose services the country could command, but because he was the best speaker—with any pretensions to professional reputation—on the side of the Government. If a Ministry requires an advocate, and must have an eloquent orator to plead for acts which do not speak satisfactorily for themselves, the choice of the best speaker instead of the best lawyer to fill the post of Attorney-General is easily understood; but though the Cabinet may gain a prop the public interest is sacrificed. Considering, also, that the law officers of the Crown are almost, as a matter of course, entitled to the highest judicial posts that fall vacant, we are exposed to the risk if not to the certainty of having our Chief Justiceships filled by political partisans.

Everybody thought that Parliament was summoned at an earlier period than usual because there was urgent business to be done; but when we ask ourselves how far we are advanced in the real work of the session on this 10th of February, about a week after the ordinary commencement of the legislative year, the answer is far from satisfactory. We are, in fact, rather later than we should have been under ordinary circumstances if Parliament had just met, for we have some new writs to be issued and elections to be decided before we shall be able to begin the actual business of the nation. The Noodle-ism and Doodle-ism of the past week has been carried to an extent that, but for the serious interests involved would have been intensely ludicrous. The running about of Lords and Honourables to and fro between each other's residences, the sulkiness of right honourables who have not been "called upon" or "sent for" by any of the chiefs successively employed in attempting to form a Cabinet, and the communications that have been passing from one to the other, have occupied the public mind at a time when every minute has been too precious to be wasted on these miserable frivolities. Day after day has the House of Commons been adjourned because, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, "the reasons for the postponement of general business remained still in full force"—or, in other words, the parties relied upon to get together a Government remained in full feebleness. Let us hope that at all events we shall have no more time consumed in "explanations;" for we may generally be pretty sure that, whenever public men begin systematically to "explain," the state of public affairs has become hopelessly confused and inexplicably intricate.

During what was termed the Ministerial Interregnum a petition was presented which may perhaps be considered no infringement of the understanding that no business was to be brought forward, because, as the petition prayed for "the total and immediate abolition of the sale of all intoxicating drinks," it may have been introduced by way of joke—a supposition to which the "laugh" with which the petition was received gives some countenance. Nevertheless there is a great deal to be said on both sides of the question, which bids fair to become one of the most important questions of the day—the propriety of restricting temperate enjoyment for the sake of preventing drunkenness. Admitting that intoxication is the cause of much crime, it would seem that we must have degenerated into a nation of little better than brutes, if we require a restrictive law debarring us altogether from the use of that which is liable to be abused by some amongst us. To prohibit the sale of all drinks that will produce intoxication if taken to excess seems little wiser than prohibiting the sale of all razors because razors are sometimes employed in the crimes of murder and suicide. Am I to be prevented from shaving because my neighbour may cut his own or somebody else's throat if we are not both prevented from purchasing what is to me a very useful, and, from habit, an almost indispensable, instrument? The sale of every article might be prohibited on the same ground, for there is nothing that may not be, and hardly anything that is not, occasionally applied to an evil as well as to a good or reasonable purpose. It is true that drunkenness, when it leads to crime, is an abuse that is dangerous to society. But there is no abuse that has not the same effect in a smaller or greater degree, and, if the principle sought to be applied in this case were to be applied in others, we should have to banish from use nearly everything from which we derive benefit. Let intemperance be as prolific as it may of crime, it cannot prevent temperance from being a virtue—and a virtue that it would be impossible to practise if we were to prohibit the use of that of which the abuse only is criminal. Tested by the application of sound principles, the cause of what is called the Maine liquor law must fall to the ground as completely, if not so ignobly, as the most drunken of its opponents. No one denies the desirableness of the end which the abstainers or prohibitionists have in view, but the doctrine that the end will justify the means has no place in the science of sound morality. Let drunkenness be punished as a crime, if society requires that it should be so; but let not temperate enjoyment be forbidden to all because there are some who, by the abuse of a good, turn it into an occasional evil.

I am sorry to see that the prospects of the Crystal Palace are not so encouraging as every lover of harmless recreation and popular instruction could desire. The Crystal Palace has come into my mind in connection with the temperance question, because I think there is more sound and wholesome support for the temperance cause to be met with in the morale of the Crystal Palace than in all the teetotal lectures and discussions that were ever uttered or written. The best antidote to the gin palace will be the Crystal Palace; and not half so much good will be done by shutting the doors of the former as by keeping the doors of the latter open. The allurements of the gin palace will seem the more to be desired the more they are rendered difficult of access; but in the Crystal Palace attractions are contained that, if they are acceptable, must and will supersede the pleasures of mere sensual excitement. There would have been little pretext for closing the public-houses in London on Sunday if the Crystal Palace at Sydenham had on that day been permitted to remain open. At all events we are not justified in resorting to the prohibitory system until we have given the free principle a fair trial, and this we cannot be said to have done. Until we have made harmless Sunday recreations as easy of access as we have hitherto permitted to be the case with more dangerous allurements, it is not fair to say that "people will get drunk on Sunday, if we do not restrain the sale of all intoxicating drinks," until we have placed within their reach some alternative that will enable them to choose a good in preference to an evil.

The German papers speak of a new sect, of whose opinions no account is given; but we are told that the members "meet at night in the open fields, wearing high caps adorned with horses' tails, and holding in their hands high sticks surmounted with many-coloured paper lanterns." We are not informed whether these masqueraders represent a new religion or a new party in politics; but whichever may be the case it might be as well, if the costume is intended

to be emblematical, that the horses' tails should be superseded by those of another animal. The "authorities" have taken the usual course and "arrested the parties;" as if taking them up were the best way of putting them down; and we shall now, no doubt, hear of them as martyrs, though they would probably never have been spoken of again had they been left to themselves as mountebanks.

The curiosities of law are sometimes as remarkable, if not as interesting, as the curiosities of literature; and judicial acts which seem somewhat startling at first sight are occasionally rendered more so by judicial reasons. The other day a young man pleaded "Guilty" at the Middlesex Sessions to a charge of having obtained by false pretences a gold watch and three gold chains, value £26, and three sets of studs. His counsel, as it was his professional duty to do, having been paid for it, contended that "it was not a case for full punishment, for the prisoner had given one of the gold chains to a young woman, and had enlisted into the 17th Lancers, in which regiment he would be more efficiently employed in the service of his country in the Crimea than undergoing punishment in a prison here." Of course this will be considered all very legitimate in the mouth of a paid advocate. If it had been a clerk, who had robbed a bank and got another place before he was apprehended, his counsel might, if he chose, have argued that "his client would be much more efficiently employed as a cashier in his new situation, handling the gold under his charge, than in turning a crank at Wandsworth gaol, or walking up an interminable flight of steps without arriving at any satisfactory conclusion." Such might be the "legitimate" course for a barrister to pursue, in conformity with the practice and morality of the bar, but we should hardly expect the Judge to acquiesce in the proposition. Perhaps, however, we might be wrong in our supposition, for who would have imagined that, in the case first alluded to, the Assistant Judge would so far have acquiesced in the views of the prisoner's counsel as to say, "The Court regarded it as a case in which some lenity could be shown, but still there was a rule from which it would not do to depart." It is rather difficult for a non-judicial mind to see any grounds for special lenity, unless it is an extenuation of an offence to give a portion of the proceeds to a young woman, and then enlist in a cavalry regiment. It is not very complimentary to the army to imply that a criminal has shown such a knowledge of his proper position by joining it that the Judge feels called upon to almost apologise for passing any sentence at all, and observes in vindication of the course he is taking, that "still there is a rule from which *it will not do to depart*," and he accordingly inflicts a term of imprisonment. Every one will agree with the learned Judge that, as there happens to be a law against obtaining jewellery under false pretences, *it will not do* to treat it as if it did not exist; but many will wonder why it was necessary to urge this plain proposition as a reason for passing sentence on a criminal whose case had no other mitigating circumstances than his having handed over part of the proceeds of his crime to a female, and having attempted to evade the hands of justice by enlisting as a soldier.

ANESTHESIA BY COLD IN SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

Sir.—The experience of the last few weeks has proved to my complete conviction that local anesthesia can be obtained by the numbing influence of ice, without resorting to the administration of chloroform, which by its subtle power renders insensible the system generally, and occasionally produces those fatal effects to which almost every surgeon can bear testimony. I have tried the ice in several cases, in both hospital and private practice, and in almost every instance the success was evident, the patient when blindfolded being ignorant of the use of the knife. It affords me great pleasure to confirm the evidence of Dr. Arnott upon this interesting subject, and to draw the serious attention of surgeons, both at home and abroad, to this agent, whereby patients can be freed from the pain which attends many every-day operations we are called upon to treat with the knife, and reserve chloroform for those very severe cases where either the duration of the operation or the depth of structure requires the anæsthesia of that potent agent.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, THOMAS WAKLEY, F.R.C.S.

THE CAMP OF THE HIGHLANDERS.—There was a wind that would effectually deprive, if wind could do it, any number of rats of their whiskers to-day. Anxious to see what things were like up on the heights above Balaklava, I started, with my gun on my shoulder, through the passes across the hill, knee-deep in snow, and after a futile shot or two at great, raw-necked vultures, and stately eagles, and some more fortunate cracks at "blue rocks," scraping the snow off the points of the cliffs, I arrived in the camp of the Highlanders, several hundred feet below the elevated position of the Rifles, but quite high enough to induce me to accept a hearty invitation to stop to dinner, an' rest for the night. Oh! could "Caledoniensis," "Pictus," "Memor antiquae virtutis," or any of the high-spirited Celtic gentlemen who are fighting about lions rampant and Scottish rights, and the garb of that respectable person, Auld Gael, but see for one moment what their countrymen are like as they face this Crimean winter, "how shamed they would be" of their kilt and philibeg and stocking declamation! All such things are clean gone, and if the gallant Highlanders ever wear the kilt now 'tis for punishment! Brecks—low-lived breeks—and blanket-gaiters, and any kind of leggings over them, are the wear of our Scottish Zouaves, though, in good sooth, they are no more like Zouaves, except in popular modern legendary, than they are like Dutchmen *à la Rip Van Winkle*. The fact is that in fine weather the folds of the kilt over the loins are oppressively hot and distressing—in cold weather, as long as a man is taking active exercise, the kilt is bearable, because it keeps the stomach, and thighs, and hips warm, and the small space between the fall of the kilt and beginning of the stocking is protected by the vigorous circulation; but if a man in a kilt bivouacked on a hillside of a cold night he would be an object for the Humane Society next morning. Over the waste of snow, looking down from the heights towards the valley of the Tchernaya, I could see those indefatigable Cossacks riding about through the snow over their picket-ground, and a few wagons were stealing along from Mackenzie's Farm towards the heights of Inkerman. A vidette or two were trotting up and down along a ridge, keeping a bright look-out on our movements, and through the glass we could see them clapping their hands under their armpits, as London cabmen do of a cold night, when waiting for a fare. Towards Bairdar pickets of the same active but cowardly gentry were moving along to keep themselves warm. We had no cavalry posts advanced against them. Why not? Because we could not send any out conveniently. Those rugged rustians, in sheepskin coats and fur caps, mounted on ragged ponies, with deal lances and coarse iron tips, are able to hold ground in drifting snow and biting winds which our cavalry, such as they are, could not face.—*Letter from Balaklava, Jan. 19.*

How we have ruined Balaclava.—Look at Balaclava, that romantic and idyllic village, with its ruined castle and inappreciable harbour—at Balaclava, which was all order and cleanliness when we took it from the Russian barbarians, and which, with its neat cottages, verandahs covered with creeping plants and studded with flower-pots, with its tall poplar-trees and luscious orchards, presented so enchanting a picture that people in England laughed at the descriptions I and others gave of so much tranquil beauty, because the pictures were considered surcharged. Look at Balaclava now, after three months' occupation by an English army, and that army, too, the most refined, orderly, and well-conducted that ever went forth to fight our country's battles on foreign soil. Ever since we came we have done all to destroy, nothing to rebuild, construct, and organise. We have turned the streets into quagmires, and having made them as nearly as possible impassable, we have crowned our work by barricading them with huge blocks of stone, which those in command, with a very much out of place sort of jocularity, insist on calling a pavement. The Turks of Gallipoli and the scum and refuse of the Levantine population at Pera bestow more care on their abominable streets than we do on those of her Majesty's town of Balaclava. After three months' occupation the harbour is a cesspool, and the beach a bottomless pit full of liquid abominations—a putrid sea of black field mire, exhaling a poisonous stench even at this cold season, and pregnant with the deaths of thousands. The moment the hot sun of spring shall come forth to quicken the seeds of pestilence which now but languidly swelter and ferment in every particle of that foul morass of our making. After three months' occupation we have not an inch of ground but would condemn any officer that had but a day's command in the town; we have not a pier which is not a disgrace to the naval officer in charge of the harbour. Captain Hamilton, Assistant Quartermaster-General, lost his health from the dank mass of putrefaction which crept through the chinks of his gate and steamed under his windows, and which he was not able or energetic enough to remove. Another Assistant-Quartermaster has taken his place, and the mire is as deep as ever.

GRAND BANQUET AT THE MANSION-HOUSE

THE Right Hon. the Lord Mayor inaugurated the hospitalities of his year of office, on Tuesday evening, by a magnificent entertainment to the members of the Court of Aldermen, the Sheriffs, and principal officers of the Corporation. This banquet has usually partaken of a private character, and in former years was generally given in the Long Parlour. The late Lord Mayor extended the list of invitations, and devoted the Egyptian hall to the festivity; and the present chief magistrate has followed the example of his predecessor. There were about 120 guests on Tuesday evening, the gentlemen of the party being, in almost every instance, accompanied by ladies. One large table was spread along the whole length of the hall, the guests being seated on either side, and the chair of state occupying a position in the centre of the apartment, with the bufet of gold plate in its rear. The fete derived a remarkable interest from the fact of Major-General the Earl of Cardigan and Admiral Sir Charles Napier having accepted invitations to be present; and, as might naturally have been anticipated, the remarks which fell from these gallant officers were listened to with the most anxious attention.

After the repast had been disposed of, the "loving cup" sent round, and the usual loyal toasts given, the Lord Mayor proposed "The Navy," coupling therewith the name of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, on whose gallantry and seamanlike character his Lordship passed a high compliment.

Sir Charles Napier said: My Lord Mayor, my Lady Mayress, ladies, and gentlemen, if an officer having returned from a foreign service, like my noble friend, the Earl of Cardigan, after having performed prodigies of valour, is proud of being received in the manner he has been by this company, how much more proud must I be who have returned from my command, having hardly performed any service at all, having been censured by the Government, and dismissed from my command! (Cries of "No, no!") I repeat, "Dismissed from my command." I have no doubt that it will be expected by the present company that some account should be given of the very small services performed in the Baltic by that magnificent fleet which was sent out from this country. That fleet was magnificent certainly to a degree, but it was very badly manned, and worse disciplined. However, we managed to take it to the Baltic without pilots and without charts—all the officers being perfectly unacquainted with the Baltic and the difficulties of the navigation; but we succeeded in getting there in perfect safety. Now, the first object I had in view was to endeavour, if possible, to satisfy the wishes of the people of this country. I was quite aware when I went there that one-tenth part of what was expected could not be performed; but, nevertheless, I was determined to do the best I possibly could. When we first went up my view was to give Russia every chance of putting to sea. I divided my fleet into two squadrons. I left one in the Gulf of Finland, and the other was not very far off, at the Island of Gothland. The Russians, however, did not think proper to come out. Our next object was to go to Cronstadt, and see what was to be done there. We went there, with the assistance of a French squadron, to do all we possibly could towards making an attack on the fortress. We found the thing totally impracticable. In the first place, there was not water enough for the ships; and, in the next place, the batteries were of such strength that it would have been madness to attempt risking the fleet without the almost certainty of its destruction. I, therefore, think I acted the prudent part in the course I pursued. The French Admiral thought so also, and we returned from the Baltic to our former anchorage, and thence to Bomarsund. I had written before to the English Government to propose to attack Bomarsund. I wanted no troops to go there. I had troops enough. But the French Admiral thought it proper to have some. We went there. The French Government sent out 10,000 troops. I did not want them. They had much better have been employed at Sebastopol. I did ask for one or two thousand to make the thing more sure, but I could have accomplished everything without them, and I wrote home to that effect. However, they sent out 10,000. It is needless for me to say how quickly the thing was done—Bomarsund was taken in no time, with little loss. The great fortification was destroyed—a fortification that extended a considerable distance over the Baltic. I now come to a thing of greater consequence, and I think it my duty to make it known as much as I possibly can do here, because I am not in Parliament. I have been very much censured by the Government—great clamour has been raised against me; and, instead of the Government putting down that clamour, they have actually supported it. The moment that it was known in England and in France that the French army intended to return home, seeing that it was perfectly impossible at that season of the year to perform any further service without risking her Majesty's fleet, the Government became dissatisfied, and they ordered a council of war to be held. I dare say nobody ever heard yet of a council of war fighting. However, we did not want that to drive us on, but we examined the thing carefully and thoroughly by a Marshal of France, by a French Admiral, by a General of French Engineers, by no less than three British Admirals, and we unanimously decided that it was perfectly impossible; and had we done so we should have met with the almost certainty of defeat and loss. The British Admiralty were not satisfied with that, but they listened to the advice of an officer of engineers, and I was ordered to hold another council of war to see whether French Admirals and English Generals would abandon their own opinion, and adopt that of the Admiralty. The English Generals felt insulted at that, and the French Admiral refused to join in it. He said, "I have already given my opinion, and it is not the opinion of any General of Engineers, whether he is English, French, German, or any other nation, that will make me change my opinion in an attack that is purely naval." The Government at home were not satisfied with that. The French General of Engineers sent another report home still more bare than the first; and it is unnecessary for me to say that we all concurred in condemning that opinion also, and the French army returned home; and I believe, and I have no hesitation in saying, that had they gone up the Gulf of Finland again, instead of returning home, our fleet would have been totally lost. Not satisfied with this, I went up, determined to have another survey of that fortification which is one of the strongest in Europe (Cronstadt); and this was in the month of September, which corresponds to the month of November among the Channel anything important on that occasion. We had the advantage of sitting upon our horses under a heavy fire for a long time, and we also had the advantage of witnessing the glorious exploits of our brother soldiers. Soon after this—I will not weary you with any petty details, but very soon afterwards—came the battle of Balaclava, to which the Lord Mayor has particularly alluded. With regard to the conduct of our allies, the Turks, I will say nothing. They certainly disappeared in a very short time, without carrying on any contest at all. Later in the afternoon of that memorable day, I received an order to attack the Russians in the valley. The enemy's force in the valley consisted of a long line of guns drawn up in the form of distinct batteries. I received that order, my Lords and gentlemen, and I obeyed it (Loud and protracted cheers). I delivered that order myself to the brigade under my command. I ordered them to march—I ordered them to advance—I ordered them to attack the Russians in the valley. But, my Lords and gentlemen, I must say this, that I did so upon that occasion—it being my duty to give the order to them; I did give it, but I deeply regretted it; and I am sure I should have much more deeply regretted it afterwards, if anything had prevented my performing the rest of my duty, which was, to share the dangers which these brave men so nobly faced (Loud cheers). My Lords and gentlemen, whatever dangers my comrades incurred I shared it with them (Renewed cheers). We proceeded—we advanced down and along a gradual descent of more than three-quarters of a mile, with one of the batteries opposed to us vomiting forth shells, round shot, and grape; with a battery on the right flank and a battery on the left, and all the intermediate ground covered with Russian riflemen; so that when we came down within a distance of fifty yards to their artillery, which had been firing at us, we were, in fact, surrounded and encircled by a blaze of fire, and raked by the riflemen, who fired upon us in flank. As we passed on, the oblique fire of the artillery was brought upon our rear. Thus we had a strong fire on the front, in the rear, and on both our flanks. We entered the battery—we went through the battery—the two leading regiments cutting down a great number of the Russian gunners (Hear, hear). In the two regiments which I had the honour to lead, every officer was either killed or wounded, or had his horse shot under him, except one. Those regiments having proceeded on were followed by the second line, consisting of two more cavalry regiments, which continued to cut down the Russian gunners. Then came the third line, consisting of two other regiments, who also nobly performed their duty. The result was, this body of about 600 cavalry succeeded in passing through a body of, as we have since learnt, 5600 Russian cavalry; and, having passed through this mass, they went, according to our technical and military expression, "threes about," and retired in the same way, doing as much execution as they possibly could upon the enemy (Cheers). Upon returning up the hill we had descended we had to run the same gauntlet, and incur the same risk from the flank fire of the tirailleurs. Numbers of men and horses were shot down, and many of those unfortunate soldiers who had lost their chargers were killed while endeavouring to make their escape (Hear, hear). But what was the feeling and bearing of those men who returned? (Here the noble Earl became sensibly affected). From each regiment returned but small detachments—two-thirds of them having been destroyed—and those men, when they arrived at the summit of the hill from whence they had commenced the attack but a short time before, gave three cheers of triumph and rejoicing at the exploit they had performed; and well they might do so, for they had ridden over a Russian battery, and encountered a countless body of the enemy in the rear (Cheers). Now, my Lords and gentlemen, I have lately read somewhere that the British cavalry is of a very inferior description, and that they want a thorough re-form—that they are badly officered, being commanded by men of too high a rank in the country. I can only say this, that I don't think you will find any body of officers more careful of their men than those officers who now exist and perform the duties of officers of cavalry regiments in this kingdom; or that you will find any regiments in the world where there is such a mutual attachment between the officers and men as in the British cavalry (Cheers). The officers are at all times perfectly ready to assist and attend to the comforts of their men, and the men are so attached to their officers, that wherever their officers lead them in the cause of honour and glory the men are sure to follow. I beg to apologise for having trespassed upon you with so lengthened a military history (Cheers). But the recollection of what has passed forces upon me reflections which I cannot cast off, and I will take this opportunity of saying that I believe every man who was engaged with me in that affair of which I have been speaking, and who was fortunate enough to come out alive, feels that his escape was due to the merciful decree of an Almighty Providence; for it was a position beyond all question which presented to every man engaged the most certain prospect of death that could be imagined under any circumstances.

The noble Earl sat down amid loud applause from all parts of the hall. The "Lord Lieutenant of the County" was next proposed, and responded to by the Marquis of Salisbury; and then followed the usual routine toasts, which were prefaced and acknowledged with the customary compliments.

The healths of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress were received with special marks of approval; and the party separated about eleven o'clock, after one of the most interesting reunions which have taken place for many years.

Letter from the Camp, Jan. 19.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.—Accounts presented to the House of Commons, pursuant to the Act of Parliament, state that the gross amount of all sums received by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of savings-banks and friendly societies, in Great Britain and Ireland, from their commencement in 1817 up to the 20th of November, 1854, amounted to £70,429,757; and the gross amount of all sums paid to £34,720,905. The total amount of Stock standing in the names of the Commissioners amounted to £1,400,228; the amount of Exchequer-bills to £2,100,000; and that of Exchequer-bonds, to £1,000,000. The sums paid for the purchase of such Stock, Funds, and Exchequer-bills amounted to £33,018,906; the gross amount of interest or dividends received thereon by the said Commissioners was £24,070,220; and the gross amount of interest paid and credited to savings-banks and friendly societies by the said Commissioners, including the amount due and due on the 20th of November, 1854, £1,411,161. A total sum of £174,000 remained unpaid on that day. The expenses incurred by the Commissioners for clerks' salaries and other incidental expenses during the preceding year are estimated at £17,100. The total amount of Stock transferred to the Commissioners with the year 1854 was £1,418; the amount of new shares issued, £1,411; the amount of interest on the stocks granted, £47,648; and the amount of general dividends, £1,700. The gross amount of moneys received and paid by the Commissioners on account of "the fund for the military savings-banks," from the 9th of September, 1845, to the 5th of January, 1855, was £208,123; and the total



"NAVA."—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY. (SEE NEXT PAGE.)



"THE MOTHER."—PAINTED BY D. W. DEANE. (SEE THE EXHIBITION.)

OPENING OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

THERE seems to be but one opinion about the Exhibition of Pictures by Living English Artists opened to the public on Monday last, at the British Institution—that it is one of only very average merit. It is true that artists and connoisseurs did not expect much, nor has expectation been disappointed.

Of the forty Royal Academicians only four have condescended to send pictures: Mr. Lee, Mr. Creswick, Mr. A. Cooper, and Mr. Jones. Mr. Lee's small landscape (No. 34), "A View on the River Awe," will not sustain his reputation. Mr. Creswick's single unassisted picture (No. 2), "An English Cottage Home," has many of his characteristic excellencies; and his landscape, in which he has wrought most happily with Mr. Ansdell, has every charming quality of his pencil. Of Mr. Cooper and Mr. Jones it is not necessary to say anything.

Of the twenty Associates of the Royal Academy, five are exhibitors, viz.—Mr. E. W. Cooke, Mr. Sidney Cooper, Mr. F. Goodall, Mr. Frost, and one sculptor, Mr. Weekes. Mr. Cooke gives us a taste of Venice and Holland, each on a small scale; Mr. Cooper reproduces his favourite cows; Mr. Goodall contributes a "Cottage Interior;" Mr. Frost, a "Sea Nymph" (a little gem in its way); and Mr. Weekes, a statue in plaster, called "The Young Naturalist."

If the works are not particularly excellent this year, the prices certainly are moderate. In a catalogue of more than five hundred pictures, only sixteen are priced at more than £100. The highest price is £262 10s., modestly asked by Mr. T. M. Joy, for one of the very few historical pictures in the rooms. There is merit beyond Mr. Joy's usual pitch in this picture (No. 138)—"The Death-bed Interview between Queen Elizabeth and the Countess of Nottingham." The story is well told, and the accessories carefully arranged and painted.

Some notion of the general appearance of the exhibition may be formed from the places of honour assigned to certain pictures. Over the fireplace in the north room (long dedicated to choice cabinet pictures), Mr. Sidney Cooper is seen, supported on one side by Mr. Creswick, and on the other by Mr. Lee. In the centre of the same room, on the east side, a large and clever landscape by Mr. Hering hangs with a female head by Mr. Sant on one side, and a female rustic by Mr. Inskip on the other. Opposite, on the west side, is a noble landscape by Mr. T. Danby, "The Trophies of Youth" (engraved in our present Number), with a scene from "Gil Blas," by Mr. Selous, on its left, and a large Fruit piece, with a Peacock, by Mr. Lance, on its right.

Stepping into the middle room, over the fireplace is the long and clever landscape with deer the joint production of Mr. Creswick and Mr. Ansdell; and facing it, and deservedly in the place of honour, is the interior of an artist's studio, by Mr. Wingfield, one of the best pictures from his pencil that we remember to have seen.



"ON THE GRAND CANAL."—PAINTED BY J. HOLLAND.

In the south room, and over the fireplace, is the sweetly-conceived and sweetly-painted picture by Mr. D. W. Deane, No. 470, "The Mother," engraved in our present Number. Another picture by the same artist, and of the same touching stamp, is called "The Angel's Whisper," from Mr. Lover's well-known song. We look upon Mr. Deane as an artist fast rising to distinction in a walk of art peculiarly English.

Landscapes of course abound, and among the best are those contributed by Mr. T. Danby, Mr. Henry Jutsum, and Mr. J. Middleton. Mr. Linton makes his appearance once more; and Mr. Copley Fielding exhibits a scene in Sussex, with much of that charm of foreground and distance which he gives to his best water-colour drawings.

Another unexpected contributor is Mr. George Cruikshank, who, in No. 190, "A Runaway Knock," has told a common incident with all his usual merriment and humour.

We have often had occasion to remark that no one understands Venice better than Mr. Holland. Mr. Ruskin does not treat it more pictorially. He catches its architecture with a masterly hand, and gives us its climate with a glowing pencil. His "View on the Grand Canal" (No. 147), engraved in our present Number, is a capital example of his art.

Among the most distinguished exhibitors we must mention Mr. G. Smith (who paints most ably in the manner of Mulready), Mr. Hemsley Mr. Sant, Mr. Glass, Mr. Gale, Mr. Burchett, and Mr. Underhill. We shall have something to say about them all when next week we shall continue our pictorial illustrations.

In the Sculpture there is nothing better than Mr. Munro's clever group called "Child Play."

EXHIBITION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

[SECOND NOTICE.]

We this week engrave the sketch of "Genevra," which affords evidence of the application of Photography to purposes of high art. There are five specimens sent by Mr. Lake Price, which are fine pictures made up by the artist to illustrate varied subjects. The one which we have selected illustrates the story of "Genevra," as told by Rogers in his "Italy":—

An oaken chest half eaten by the worms,
But richly carved by Anthony of Trent,
There then had she found a grave,
Within that chest had she concealed herself,
Fluttering with joy, the happiest of the happy,
When a spring-lock that lay in ambush there
Fastened her down for ever.

Hitherto it has been more with the business of the engraver that Photography has appeared to be in rivalry—here, however, the domain of the artist is threatened. The great commercial principle of "unrestricted competition," it would appear, is to be applied to art. We rejoice to witness results at once so pleasing and so promising, and we feel confident, from the success of this first essay, that at the next exhibition of the Society we shall have to award our praise to still finer and more artistic productions of the photographic artist.



"THE TROPHIES OF YOUTH."—PAINTED BY T. DANBY.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Sir James Graham is suffering from a painful disease, which has rendered a surgical operation necessary. The operation was successfully performed by Sir Benjamin Brodie, and it is hoped that the right hon. Baronet will soon be convalescent.

The French Court has gone into mourning for three weeks on account of the death of the Queen Dowager and the reigning Queen of Sardinia.

The Queen of Naples was safely delivered of a Princess on the 21st ult.

The Queen of Spain has conferred upon Mr. George Mould, railway contractor, the Order of Charles III., as a recognition of his enterprise in initiating the railway system in that country.

The Court Almanach of St. Petersburg for 1855 includes for the first time since 1834 Queen Isabella amongst the reigning Sovereigns of Europe.

Lord Westmoreland had an audience of the Emperor of Austria on the 25th ult., to deliver an autograph letter of the Queen.

The Count and Countess de Chambord, now in Venice, have opened their magnificent saloons; but they have fewer French Legitimists at their receptions than in former years.

The Austrian General Count de Crenneville, who is charged by the Emperor of Austria with a military mission to the French Government, has arrived in Paris, and has had an audience of the Emperor.

The Northampton Town Council have unanimously voted an address of congratulation to the Earl of Cardigan. Lord Cardigan's tenantry are also getting up an address to the noble and gallant soldier.

The Duke of Modena has returned to his duchy, after having passed some days with his sister, the Countess de Chambord.

The Right Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons gave his first Parliamentary dinner on Saturday evening, at his mansion in Eaton-square. The guests on this occasion consisted of the Ministerial members of the House of Commons.

The Grand Duke of Saxe Weimar has invested the Marquis de Ferrière le Vazer, recently appointed French Minister at Stuttgart, with the grand cordon of his order; and the Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha also presented that diplomatist with the grand cordon of his order.

General La Marmora, who will command the Piedmontese army destined for the Crimea, is expected in Paris, to organise his plans in common with other Military Commissioners of the Allies.

Count Riverel, who is to assist in the organisation of the services of the Piedmontese army, arrived at Constantinople on the 28th ult.

The late Commander-in-Chief in the Black Sea, Vice-Admiral Deans Dundas, C.B., left Paris on Monday morning, and arrived at Dover on the new French and English mail steam-packet *Queen* in one hour and a half.

Changes in the Spanish Ministry are still looked for. M. Olozaga is spoken of as likely to be the new Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Count Pralormo, the Piedmontese Envoy at Rome, has received letters of recall.

A public banquet in honour of the Marquis of Westminster, and in celebration of the erection of the new Market-house, Shafesbury, which has been erected entirely at his Lordship's expense, took place last week in the building referred to.

The Princess Gortschakoff, wife of the Russian General of the Army of the South, has left Warsaw for the head-quarters of the army in Bessarabia.

A Swiss paper states that the English Government has offered to the Federal Colonel Bontems the rank of Lieutenant-General of the Foreign Legion, and that he has accepted the appointment.

M. Auguste Portalis, who was Procureur-General at Paris after the revolution of 1848, and Vice-President of the Constituent Assembly, died three days ago at Plombières (Côte d'Or), after a brief malady.

Charles Robert Scott Murray, Esq., of Danesfield, Berks, has been made by the Pope a *Commendatore*, or Knight Commander of the Order of Pope Saint Gregory the Great.

M. Sauvage, of Havre, whom the French represent as the inventor of the screw propeller, has become insane.

A statue of Charlemagne in white marble by M. Léveil is to be erected in the open space in front of the College of France.

Miss Harriet Martineau has lately been giving a series of lectures in the Lake districts, illustrative of what she considers dangerous to the peace and well-being of the world.

M. Foyatier, the sculptor, whose fine statue of Spartacus in the garden of the Tuilleries has been always so much admired, has finished an equestrian statue of Joan of Arc, ordered for the city of Orleans.

The Department of Science and Art of the Board of Trade have formed a small museum of ornamental art, which is intended to be sent in succession to the different local schools in connection with that department.

Miss Catherine Hayes reaped a rich harvest in Sydney ere she left that city for Melbourne—some £7000 from nine concerts, besides presents of plate and jewels.

A personage belonging to one of the highest families in Portugal, who desires to preserve a strict incognito, has placed 10,000 bottles of port wine at the disposal of the French Government for the Army in the Crimea.

The *Shefford Iris* (the name of the paper once edited by James Montgomery) has been revived as a weekly paper.

The diligence which plies between Alost and Brussels has been placed on a sledge, and has performed its journey with great celerity.

The Austrian Government is at present employing 12,000 men under the direction of military engineers, in executing a railway from Dembica to Boschina, to join the Warsaw line.

The Leeds subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund now amount to £12,300.

By the last advices, about £4000 had been subscribed at Melbourne for the Patriotic Fund.

A new process has been invented in Birmingham which makes bricks nearly as hard as stones. One of the new bricks sustains a weight of 2625 lbs.; a common hand-made brick breaks at 640 lbs.

The Swiss Federal Council has reduced the import duty on wrought or sheet iron worth 28f. to 36f. the 100 kil., from 3f. to 1f. 50c. the 100 kil.

A number of the poor women in Skye are at present engaged in fulfilling a Government contract for socks and stockings.

Bread is now three times the ordinary price in Egypt, in consequence of the European demand for grain.

The inhabitants of Seville have just sent to the French soldiers in the Crimea a hogshead of sherry, purchased from the proceeds of a subscription opened for that purpose.

There are now nearly 10,000 paupers in Norwich, double the number receiving relief at the corresponding period of last year.

A very large contract has been entered into for English hay and oats—a sufficient supply for 5000 horses for six months—for the Crimean campaign. No Scotch or Irish hay will be taken.

The Dissenters of Kettering rejected a church-rate lately, and the Churchmen have retaliated by refusing a gas-rate.

A new college has been founded at Rome under the special protection of the Pope, who has just presented the establishment with a very valuable set of instruments and apparatus for natural philosophy.

A slight change is in contemplation in the uniform of the French regiments of the line. The collars are all to be yellow, and the skirts of the coat will be lengthened so as to come a little below the knee.

It is rumoured that the Hornsey accident has or will cost the Great Northern Railway Company as much as £20,000.

There were, last week, 705 inmates in the Leicester workhouse, a greater number than has been known since the house was built.

There is great suffering in India from the high price of rice. At Madras it has led to rioting, only quelled by military force, after considerable damage had been done. In Ceylon mothers have sold their infants to obtain the means of buying food.

The Panama Railroad, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, which has hitherto attracted but little notice in England, is now completed, and at this date the trains are probably running through from sea to sea.

In Lower Canada the farmers are complaining of the want of snow, the covering being thought insufficient to keep the autumn-sown grain in proper state for germination.

In the Assembly at Albany a bill has been introduced for the suppression of gambling, particularly policy-playing.

A great stimulus has been given to building in Wolverhampton by the freehold land societies. It is calculated that £150,000 has been already subscribed for this purpose.

Toronto papers mention that there are now in Canada two post-offices called Alma and Inkerman.

LITERATURE.

CURIOSITIES OF LONDON: Exhibiting the Most Rare and Remarkable Objects of Interest in the Metropolis; with nearly Fifty Years' Personal Recollections. By JOHN TIMBS, F.S.A. Bogue.

Here is a clever book on a subject that is always interesting and always new; here is a well-filled volume on a topic that is inexhaustible; here is a happy title happily carried out: in a few words, a volume on London that will live.

From the time when the "Curiosities of London" was first announced we have looked forward to its publication with very great interest. This was due to its author; for Mr. Timbs, by his "Year-books of Facts" and other works of a like nature, has earned for himself a well-merited name for that skill in gathering, and painstaking accuracy in recording, facts which are so essential to the success of a work like the one before us. Mr. Timbs lays claim to nothing more than diligence: but more may be safely accorded to him. He has exhibited great tact in grouping his materials; though we are at times inclined to think that he has been too much in love with little matters, and occasionally overburdened his pages with minor materials, but still, we must add, with facts.

In a brief and appropriate preface Mr. Timbs informs us that this work has been twenty-seven years in hand. By this he does not mean that it had been so continuously, and to the exclusion of other labours; but that his "pleasing them" has been constantly before him, and that he has seldom allowed a day to pass without adding something of moment to his materials:—

Twenty-seven years since (in 1828) I wrote in the parlour of the house No. 3, Charing-cross (then a publisher's), the title and plan of a volume to be called "Curiosities of London;" and the work here submitted to the public is the realisation of that design. I then proposed to note the most remarkable points in the annals of the metropolis, and to describe its most remarkable objects of interest, from the earliest period to my own time—for the Present has its "Curiosities" as well as the Past. Since the commencement of this design in 1828—precisely midway in my lifetime—I have scarcely for a day or hour lost sight of the subject; but, through a long course of literary activity, have endeavoured to profit by every fair opportunity to increase my stock of materials; and, by constant comparison, "not to take for granted, but to weigh and consider," in turning such materials to account. In this labour I have been greatly aided by the communications of obliging friends, as well as by my own recollection of nearly Fifty Years' Changes in the aspects of "enlarged and still increasing London."

The plan of the work is in the main alphabetical, with a sub-alphabet: thus Piccadilly is treated entire with the streets and turnings from it, such as Berkeley-street on one side, and Duke-street on the other, in the strict order of the Alphabet; while to the whole work is added a really useful Index, so essential to a work that deals in facts, and facts alone.

It is not as a library companion alone that Mr. Timbs's "Curiosities of London" will be found of real value, but as a strict guide to the foreigner and to the Londoner as well, both of whom will find at every turn the very information they require, with much that they will be glad to know on points connected immediately and even remotely with their inquiries. Mr. Timbs has a surprising and happy knack of bringing points of importance from remote corners into broad daylight. Here is an example from the very first page of the book of condensed and useful information:—

ADELPHI, THE.

A series of streets in the rear of the houses on the south side of the Strand, reaching east and west from Adam-street to Buckingham-street, and facing the Thames on the south—a grand commencement of the architectural embankment of the river in 1768. It is named *Adelphi* (*ἀδελφος*, brother) from its architects, the four brothers Adam, who built vast arches over the courtyard of Old Durham-house, and upon these erected, level with the Strand, Adam-street, leading to *John*, *Robert*, *James*, and *William* streets; the noble line of houses fronting the Thames being the *Adelphi-terrace*. The view from this spot is almost unrivalled in the metropolis for variety and architectural beauty: from Waterloo-bridge on the east, with the majestic dome and picturesque *campanile* of St. Paul's, to Westminster-bridge on the west, above which rise the towers of Lambeth Palace and Westminster Abbey, and the pinnacles and bristling roofs of the new Houses of Parliament.

At No. 5, the centre house of the terrace, David Garrick died, Jan. 20, 1799; and here his remains lay in state, previous to their interment in Westminster Abbey, Feb. 1. Garrick's widow also died here in 1822. At No. 1, Adam-street, lived Dr. Knox, the "British Essayist." At Osborne's Hotel, John-street, in 1824, sojourned Kamehameha II., King of the Sandwich Islands, and his sister the Queen, with their suites; the Queen died here of measles, July 8; and the King died of the same disease, at the Caledonian Hotel, on the 14th; their remains lay in native pomp at Osborne's, and were then deposited in the vaults of St. Martin's Church, prior to their being conveyed to the *Blonde* frigate to the Sandwich Islands for interment. The poor King and Queen were wantonly charged with gluttony and drunkenness while here; but they lived chiefly on fish, poultry, and fruit; and their favourite drink was some cider, presented to them by Mr. Canning.

In John-street, also, is the house built for the Society of Arts by the Adams. In the second floor chambers at No. 2, James-street, lived, for nearly thirty years, Mr. Thomas Hill, the "Hull" of Theodore Hook's "Gilbert Gurney." Hill died here December 20, 1841, in his eighty-first year; and left a large collection of curiosities, including a cup and a small vase formed from the mulberry-tree planted by Shakespeare at Stratford-upon-Avon. Neither of these, however, is the Shakespeare Cup presented to Garrick by the Mayor and Corporation of Stratford at the time of the Jubilee. This celebrated relic was bought on May 5, 1825, for 121 guineas, by Mr. J. Johnson; and by him sold, July 4, 1846, for £40 8s. 6d., to Mr. Isaacs, of Upper Gower-street.

The *Adelphi* vaults, occupied as cellars and coal-wharfs, in their grim vastness, remind one of the Etruscan *Cloaca* of old Rome. Beneath the "dry arches" the most abandoned characters have often passed the night, nestling upon foul straw; and many a street thief escaped from his pursuers in these subterranean haunts before the introduction of gas-light and a vigilant police.

In a work containing what Mr. Timbs's old acquaintance, Sir Richard Phillips, would have called "a million of facts," some slight errors must from fatal necessity be found. But these are so few in number, and of so little real consequence when weighed against the undoubted facts to be found throughout a volume of eight hundred closely and clearly printed pages, that they will be readily pardoned as inevitable to any great design. He is indeed a narrow-minded critic who pounces on a few errors, condemns a whole work thereupon, and does not give its author credit for the real merits of his book. Mr. Timbs's errors in this way are where he has copied others, and has not relied on his own usually happy diligence in sifting truth and adjusting the order of minute events.

Prefixed is a portrait of the author from a capital miniature, to which we called attention in our notice of the Royal Academy Exhibition of last year. As readers are always curious to know what any author who has entertained them is like, we have transferred Mr. Timbs to our present number. (See the *Engraving* at page 125.) He is in a thoughtful mood, and is evidently thinking of old Stripe, or older Stow.

SUMMER TOURS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, 1853-54. By JOHN BARROW, Esq. Dalton.

Mr. Barrow left England on the 11th of June, 1853; and, between that time and the 2nd of September, made a very agreeable tour from Calais to Cologne by railway, thence by Stuttgart and Munich to the Tyrol; crossed the Alps to Padua; and returned by Turin, Genoa, Mont Cenis, and Lyons, to London—"that focus of fog and fashion, thankful to have breathed so much fresh air, and to have been through

many a pleasant place; Though sluggards deem it an idle chase, And wonder men should quit their *easy chair*, The toilsome way and long long league to trace. Oh! there is pleasure in the mountain air, And health which bloated ease can never hope to share."

Mr. Barrow industriously kept up his diary, day by day, and has now published it, with every appearance of being a *bond fide* transcript of running impressions. From his route it will be seen that he lost no time. His motto is "Celer Eundo," and he has carried it out in his go-ahead progress. His little book (which would have been more prosperous a shilling than eighteen pence, in spite of what "his publisher is obliged to charge") is an excellent guide, not in any way intended to encroach upon the great "Murray," but contains an account of just the route that a man who can allow himself the time, and a pound a day for his expenses, would wish to make. Mr. Barrow makes several judicious "notes" beyond those merely pertaining to hotels and routes. Thus, at a review at Lille, he says:—

The 17th Regiment of the Line, like all other French infantry, did not seem to care about marching as our soldiers do, and when advancing in line were certainly much *out of line* (and *step too*). They make no attempt even to march with precision. Their system is the reverse of ours, and perhaps if they had a little more of our drill, some of which we could spare, and we had a little of their natural ease, both armies would be the better for the exchange. As it is, the English soldier might be thinking how he should scale the wall

comme il faut, while the French soldier would be in possession of the fortress *couste qui couste*.

This, written nearly two years ago, might have been lately illustrated; and, in addition, after a review at Lyons, in which he says the French cavalry charged superbly, but failed in halting, he bears tribute to the heroes of Balaclava, as follows:—

The most splendid charge I have ever seen for speed, precision, and sudden halt, was in a review of Lord Cardigan's regiment. I shall never forget an inspection I witnessed of the 11th Hussars on Wimbledon Common, as I considered it as the *ne plus ultra* of light cavalry movements, and certainly not to be equalled by any regiment in Europe, and consequently in the world.

And again anticipated a military reform at Coblenz:—

After church saw two Prussian regiments on parade. They look remarkably well, the short frock-coat and handsome helmet having a smart soldier-like appearance in line, or with any body of troops. The helmet cannot be judged of singly, as it gives the notion of being too large and cumbersome, just as a grenadier's cap seems large and ugly when seen alone, but magnificent in line. Our Guards, in my opinion, only want the moustache to make them look as fine in a body of men as any in Europe, and I trust they will adopt it.

His absolute travelling sketches are equally judicious. Who has not sat behind this fellow in the neighbourhood of Como?—

Our position from Colico was a smart, well-dressed, merry-looking lad. He played the bugle charmingly, handled his horses cleverly, rode skilfully, drove rapidly, cracking his joke as well as his whip, as he galloped along, at every passer-by; in fact, he was the beau ideal of a "postillon," being an uncommonly good-looking youth into the bargain, full of life and spirits, and fit for anything.

The following truth, speaking of Genoa, is sadly subversive of conventional travelling enthusiasm:—

The noise and bustle of this place is very likely that at Wapping. I grieve to compare Genoa and Wapping!—but so it is. Genoa "la superba" is a seaport town, and all the hotels are on the quay, and miserably situated. If any spirited man were to build an hotel near the lighthouse, he might make his fortune; for no one would go to Wapping when he had the choice of Blackwall.

An appendix contains two skeleton tours in Switzerland, which will be found useful to intending pedestrians.

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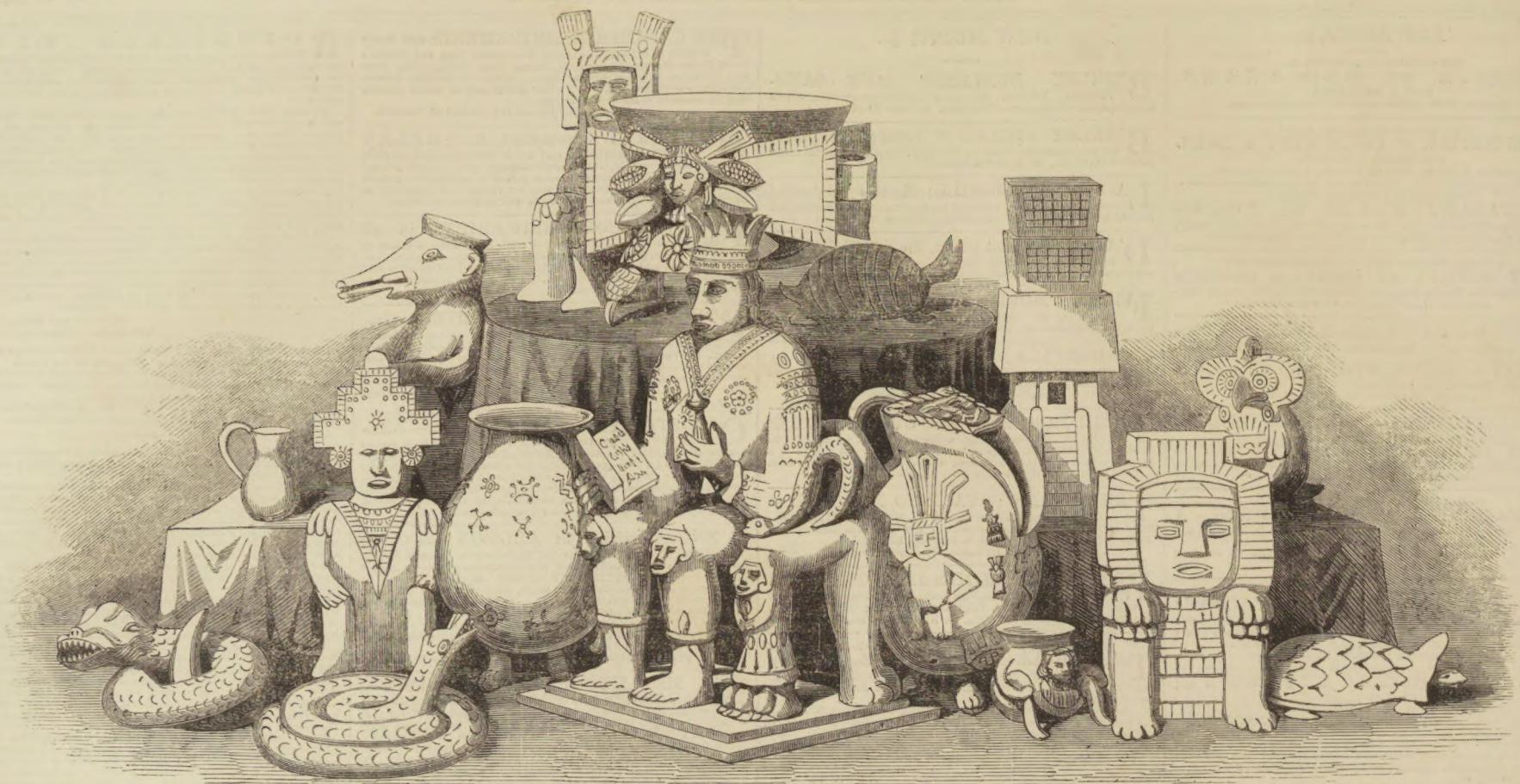
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UNSONDNESS of MIND in RELATION to CRIMINAL



GROUP FROM THE MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES, NOW EXHIBITING IN PALL-MALL.

(Continued from page 142.)

contorted human figure, wrapped in the skin of a base animal. This is probably accounted for by what is recorded by some writers on Mexican Antiquities, that at the festivals of some of their idols—that of Quetzalcoatl, the God of Air, for instance—the people used to dress themselves up disguised as beasts and reptiles, and perform all sorts of antics in honour of the idol. In fearful contrast to these mummeries is a group representing a priest in the act of slaying a human victim. The latter is kneeling with his back to the priest, and the lower part of his body covered with the sacrificial veil. The priest has drawn his victim's head and shoulders backward, so as to rest on his lap, and grasps a knife, with which he has just made an incision in the breast, exposing the heart; which on such occasions is taken out palpitating and offered to the idol in whose honour the sacrifice is made. Another object of dread import is the idol supposed to be the Messenger of Death. He sits, in a kneeling position, upon a large skull; his lower limbs appear as if they had been flayed, showing only the muscles, and on his breast are cross-bones. There are two faces—one like a mask, the other a real face, with the lower jaw removed, exposing large lion-like teeth.

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the worship of the Sun. 396, a Two-handled Vase, supported on three eagles' heads for feet; the face is surrounded by representations, in bold and high relief, of fruits, ears of corn, and cakes, which lead to the belief that this vase served for presenting first-fruit offerings;—522, a Figure, seated on an elevated chair of state, resting on four legs, the two in front being Indians, the two behind animals upright; two snakes form the arms of the chair. The figure has on its head a rayed crown; in one hand it holds a truncheon or baton, in the other an open book, in which is written in Spanish, "Yo soy soy Safurysty Gobernado de Santyago Tlaltelolco, 1552." The figure is clothed in rich vestments, and an order is suspended round the neck. The policy of the victorious Spaniards led them, in order to conciliate the feelings of the conquered, to invest the native princes with power and authority, and this there can be little doubt is a portrait of one of the first to whom such dignity was entrusted. The figure is of unmistakable Aztec physiognomy. 311, a Black-banded Tortoise;—404, a Tall Vase, with the figure of an Idol on it, and the mouth something like the beak of a large bird; probably used in propitiating sacrifices;—236, a Model of a Teocalli (*i.e.* House of God) or Mexican Temple, consisting of three stories above the basement; the door is reached by a flight of ten steps: the wide platform on the summit was the place where human victims are sacrificed;—373, a Small Vase of grotesque design, the chief feature of which is a sitting Human Figure without the head, which is represented in relief in the front;—247, an Idol, which has a remarkable resemblance to the stone-sculptures of Egypt; the heavy square-formed head-dress being of a similar type to that of various Deities at Thebes and Memphis; an Owl-faced Divinity riding on a Turtle;—303, a Tortoise.



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